

THE
Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

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TO the MEMBERS of the BRITISH EMPIRE MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,
In conformity with the constitution of the Company, it will be our turn at the ensuing Annual Meeting to present ourselves for re-election as Directors, and we respectfully request your support on that occasion.
At the same Meeting the Members will have the opportunity of electing a Director in the place of Mr. Henry Cooper, who retired from the Board in the early part of the present year.
It is with much satisfaction we inform you, that the business of the current year is considerably in excess of the year 1859. The Company has now attained a high standing among Life Assurance Institutions. Its Annual Income exceeds 60,000l. The Members' Accumulated Fund is nearly 200,000l., after the distribution of 63,418l. as profits among the Assurers up to 31st December, 1857, and the payment of 110,000l. to the representatives of deceased Members.

Our individual efforts to promote the prosperity of the Company and to regulate its operations, so as to secure the largest amount of advantage to the Assurers, were very kindly recognised by the Members at our re-election on several previous occasions; and we trust our unremitting attention to the duties which have devolved upon us, especially those connected with the Life, Loan, and Agency departments, will secure for us the same result at the next Annual Meeting.
Sustained in our present position by your confidence and support, we shall continue to give the benefit of the experience we have acquired during the series of years we have had the honour of a seat at the Board, in protecting your interests and in extending the business of the Company.

We have the honour to be,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your most obedient servants,
JOHN GOVER, Chairman,
B. WEBB GARDINER, } Retiring
DANIEL PRATT, } Directors.

N.B.—The ANNUAL MEETING will be held at RADLEY'S HOTEL, New Bridge-street, E.C., on TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26th, 1861, at Three o'clock precisely.
December 14th, 1860.

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Option given of receiving profits by Cash payment; by ADDITION to the sum assured; or by REDUCTION of future premiums.
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At the last two divisions of profits, Bonusses equal to 27½ per cent. of premiums were paid.
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"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

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Eccliaistical Affairs.

IN THE SAME BOAT.

THE question of Church-rates has been taken into the programme of the leader of the Opposition in the House of Commons, and, the issue at stake having been changed, the friends of Abolition will find their position greatly simplified thereby. Hitherto, they have, at best, dragged a Liberal Administration in their wake. They have never, we think, succeeded in carrying with them the whole body. They have never received from them active assistance. They have occasionally, as our readers will not have forgotten, met with passive obstruction at the hands of the more eminent members of the Cabinet, and, as a matter of course, under such circumstances, they have had but a feeble, and sometimes, very slippery, hold upon those supporters of the Government who acknowledge but a nominal responsibility to nominal constituencies. Knowing, as we have done, the deadening effect produced upon an influential, if not numerous, section of their party, by the known hostility, or reluctant acquiescence, of the higher members of the Government, we have more than once felt surprise at the large majorities which Sir John Trelawny has repeatedly obtained. What has been achieved under many unfavourable circumstances suffices to show what may be achieved when her Majesty's Government think fit to adopt as their own the policy of Abolition, and to employ the weight of their influence in carrying it into effect. But, up to the present time, we have refrained from pressing upon the Government, as such, the service which they owe, in this matter, to the bulk of their supporters. We have put in no formal claim to their assistance in return for the aid we have generally given them. We have been cautious not to exact from them what might prove an embarrassment to them in their difficult position. And, all things considered, we believe our forbearance to have been wise as well as generous.

But the members of her Majesty's Government will, no doubt, feel that Mr. Disraeli has put it out of their power to reckon upon the safe indulgence of their individual preferences in regard to the Church-rate question, in future. His proposition is, not merely to refuse what we ask, but to take from us what we have. Pretending to discuss the exemption of Dissenters as a claim put forward by them, well knowing meanwhile, as he must, or, at any rate, ought to have done, that it was a compromise offered them by their opponents, but always steadily refused, he comes to the conclusion that they are not entitled to any such concession—nor, indeed, to any concession whatever. But he does not stop here. He knows that to leave matters just as they are, is to leave the rate to perish piecemeal in the parishes. He, therefore, insists upon an alteration of the law, not in the shape of relaxing it, but of making it more stringent. "You do not approve of this exaction," he says in effect—"you seek to be excused. But, inasmuch as we do approve of

it, and do not mean to let you off, we shall take our measures accordingly. To your demand for abolition, or even for exemption, we oppose our demand for stronger legal powers to force your submission to our will. Instead of allowing you to advance a single step further, we mean to drive you several steps back. You shall not only not get what you want—but you shall be compelled to yield us, once for all, what we want."

Be it so! We accept the alternative. We are not responsible for proposing it—but since it has been proposed, we will not shrink from it. We understand that we are to get the rate abolished, or we are to lose such control over it as we have always possessed. Well, the question having been put in this form, her Majesty's advisers cannot but anticipate the removal from our minds of all squeamishness with regard to them. The majority which has twice carried Sir John Trelawny's Bill through the House of Commons, consists, with one or two exceptions, of their general supporters. Entire and unconditional abolition of Church-rates is, not the demand of Dissenters merely, but an avowed item in the policy of the Liberal party, in Parliament and out of it. And now, we ask Ministers what they, as representative of the Liberal party, and dependent upon it, mean to do, in the altered position of the question. It is, perhaps, in their power, by tacit connivance, and secret understandings, to let Mr. Disraeli run us as close as may be without actually inflicting on us the mischief he is nursing. There are two members of the Cabinet, we know, who saw no harm last Session in accepting Mr. Disraeli's offer to lend the aid of his followers in overriding our demands with regard to the Census, and who were compelled, notwithstanding, to beat a rather inglorious defeat. It must not, therefore, be taken as hard if we look about us, at the present crisis, with vigilant suspicion. At all events, we shall be far less delicate than heretofore in enforcing our expectations, should we be driven to it.

That we shall not be driven to the necessity of putting extreme pressure, or, indeed, any pressure at all, upon her Majesty's Government, we confidently anticipate. Mr. Disraeli's counsels are too obviously suggested by the exigencies of his party, and his own personal ambition, to admit of "masterly inactivity" on the part of Ministers. He is forging a weapon, not so much to cut down the claims of Dissent, as to hew himself a way to the Treasury bench. He is endeavouring to collect and combine the materials of a triumphant party by which he hopes to storm successfully the bulwarks of office. Ministers will discern clearly enough, without needing to be told, that it is against them, not against Dissent, that the real contest is to be waged. We fancy we see them giving him credit for his paraded concern to uphold the Church Establishment! They know him well. They are as fully aware as we can be that his interest in the question of Church-rates is of very recent birth. They are not likely to overlook the moral certainty that he has taken up the question merely as the most promising party lever within his present reach. They will foresee, quite as distinctly as we do, that if he could contrive to lead his troops to victory on the battle-field of his own selection, he would very soon lead them to engagements in which success would yield him more solid fruits than fame. They will be shrewd enough to divine that a defeat of the Liberal party upon the Church-rate question by Mr. Disraeli, would be the sure precursor of the disorganisation of the Liberal party, and of the dissolution of the Cabinet. We have not much faith in Lord Palmerston's sense of obligation to his supporters—but we have great faith in the sagacity of his political instincts. No one can overreach the noble Premier but himself—Disraeli is the last man likely to do it.

Satisfied as we are, however, that Mr. Disraeli's tactics can have no other result upon the Government than that of compelling them to make our cause their own, we are not less strongly convinced that the friends of abolition would do a

very foolish thing in resigning the further conduct of the contest into official hands. The real issue is with the people out of doors. Were the present Cabinet as heartily with us as we fear they are inwardly disinclined towards us, it would be bad policy to forego a single effort that it may be within our power to make. We shall want all the force we can muster, even in the event of the Government taking our cause in hand—not so much to preserve our majority in the Commons—that we are convinced may be done in any case—but to make it sufficiently emphatic to break down opposition in the House of Lords. The most strenuous exertion will be needed—not a hand can we afford to dispense with—not a day after the commencement of the new year can we safely allow to be wasted; but if the friends of Abolition will do what is required of them—and they will not be put upon any overwhelming task—we think we can see our way clear to a more satisfactory result than any we have yet had. It is not with palpitating heart, but with bounding hope, that we are about to enter upon the decisive struggle. We do not underrate the strength of our opponents, but we know also the strength of our own resources. We rejoice in the altered aspect of the contest. We never had a more powerful force to overcome—but we never foresaw more distinctly the certainty of overcoming it.

THE CHURCH-RATE QUESTION.

CONFERENCE AT LIVERPOOL.

On the 9th inst. the opponents of Church-rates in Liverpool and the neighbouring towns assembled at Anderson's Rooms, to meet a deputation from the Liberation Society, consisting of Mr. Carvell Williams, the Secretary, and Ralph S. Ashton, Esq., of Darwen. The Rev. C. Williams, whose name is intimately connected with the Easter-dues agitation at Accrington, was also present. The attendance was numerous, and among others present were Charles Robertson, Esq., who presided; the Rev. E. Giles, of Huyton; Rev. W. Sanders, of Stanley; Rev. Mr. Stevens; Rev. S. Clarkson, of Manchester; Rev. D. B. Joseph, of Bootle; Rev. Mr. Roberts; Rev. S. Green, of London; Messrs. Urquhart, J. J. Stitt, F. Boulton, John Cripps, Spencer (Manchester), C. E. Rawlins, sen., C. E. Rawlins, jun., and R. Duke. Mr. S. B. Jackson, the local secretary, also read letters from the following gentlemen expressing their concurrence in the objects of the meeting, and regretting their inability to be present:—The Revs. W. Roaf, Wigan; John Sugden, Lancaster; C. M. Birrell; John Peters; A. Dewar, Ormskirk; W. Brook, London; and Mr. E. G. Salisbury, of Chester. After the company had taken tea,

The CHAIRMAN said he regarded the recent movements of their opponents as a matter of encouragement to themselves, for they had hitherto had to contend with apathy and indifference, and therefore they had experienced a much greater difficulty in keeping the question before the public than would have been the case if their opponents had condescended to meet them upon the fair field of argument and reasoning. He thought it was a mistake on the part of their opponents to abandon their old ground. He hoped there would be no compromise—no surrender; but he feared it was too good to be true that the Church-rate party would follow the lead of Mr. Disraeli in this matter.

Mr. CARVELL WILLIAMS was the first speaker, and, in the opening part of his address, he said that even the smallest majority obtained by Sir J. Trelawny was equal to that of the Government on so important a measure as that for the repeal of the paper-duty. (Hear.) But the abolition bill was not a Government measure. (Hear.) Not long ago even Liberal Governments opposed it; now they treated it as an open question, and three members of the present administration—Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Herbert, and Mr. Peel—were against it. He argued that that was a state of things which could not last without damage to the Liberal party, now that the question was becoming a mere battle-ground between Liberals and Tories. He said that nothing could be better for the abolitionists than the ground taken by Mr. Disraeli. He (Mr. Williams) did not believe that the great question of Church and State connexion would be decided on the collateral question of Church-rates. (Hear, hear.) The English people were a practical people, and so long as they got rid

of a grievance they did not much care for the preservation of a theory; but when it came to be understood that this exaction was absolutely essential to the existence of the Establishment, they would say—then the Establishment must go. (Loud cheers.) Mr. Disraeli's assertion that our political liberties were based on our parochial system—that that system was an essential part of the Establishment, and that the Establishment necessitated Church-rates—was an adoption of the Hindoo idea that the world rested on the tortoise's back. (Laughter.)

Mr. ECLES moved the first resolution, which was as follows:—

That this conference reiterates the conviction expressed repeatedly and in many forms during the last twenty-five years—that the levying of Church-rates necessarily inflicts injustice on and does violence to the consciences of large classes of the community; that it occasions disturbance and ill-feeling in a large number of parishes where but for the existence of such a system there would be harmony and peace; and that the extent to which rates have been abolished has conclusively shown that neither the interests of religion nor those of the Church of England would suffer from their entire extinction by the Legislature.

The speaker showed that in parishes where Church-rates had been abolished, the Establishment had gained a higher place in the respect of the inhabitants, and had suffered no injury in its means of maintenance.

Mr. URQUHART, the seconder, pointed to the experience of Liverpool as amply justifying the resolution. The rate was lost in 1854 by a majority of 537. Since then every attempt has been made by the clergy that zeal could devise, to persuade and drill the parishioners to vote for a Church-rate, which enabled them to bring to the poll in 1855 2,337 Church-rate men, but 2,932 no-Church-rate men walked up to the poll, and the rate was lost again by a majority of 595. (Cheers.) The speaker also criticised the evidence of Dr. Hume, as to Liverpool, before the Lords' Committee.

Rev. CHARLES WILLIAMS apologised for being late by explaining that there had been the first Easter dues sale at Accrington that day, and he had been implored by the superintendent of police to stay and prevent the people breaking the peace. He entered at length into the Easter dues question, to show that the clergy at Accrington had been wanton aggressors, and also what was the real character of that parochial system which Mr. Disraeli lauded. His speech excited great interest.

Mr. RICHARD JOHNSON moved, Mr. Councillor STURT seconded, and Mr. R. S. ASHTON supported the next resolution, which was as follows:—

That this conference is convinced that any attempt to perpetuate Church-rates by a mere amendment of the law would certainly fail to correct the admitted evils of the system. That, in particular, it believes that any scheme of exemption from payment would not only be a dangerous fiscal innovation, but would practically fail to afford relief to the opponents of the exaction in a large number of parishes; that it also believes that it would lead in others to a revival of agitation which has now happily ceased, as well as tend to throw upon parochial rates expenses now readily met by voluntary contributions; that this conference, therefore, adheres to the demand for total abolition as the only satisfactory mode of terminating this long-continued struggle.

Mr. CHARLES E. RAWLINS moved, and the Rev. Mr. STEVENS seconded:—

That this conference, while congratulating the opponents of Church-rates upon the fact that their unconditional abolition still continues to command a majority of the House of Commons in its favour, would earnestly recommend the most vigorous action during the ensuing session of Parliament, in order to convince the House of Lords that the time has at length come for yielding to the opinions so frequently recorded by the representatives of the people.

The mover suggested that a delegate meeting in London should be convened by the Liberation Society to consider the following resolution:—

That all the Dissenting congregations throughout the country should be invited to resist the imposition and the payment of Church-rates on and after the year 1862—first by such legal methods as each case may suggest, and, if unsuccessful in this, then by passive resistance.

After Professor GRIFFITHS and Mr. GURNEY had spoken to a resolution, urging more systematic opposition to rates in parishes, and Mr. RAWLINS, sen., with other gentlemen from neighbouring places, had given some practical information, the conference was dissolved, having had a lengthened sitting.

MEETINGS OF THE LIBERATION SOCIETY.

PRESTON.

A large meeting was held at the Corn Exchange on Wednesday last. A small but, apparently, organised body of opponents was present, but they contented themselves with voting against the resolutions, and the meeting was conducted with the greatest order.

Mr. Councillor HASLAM was chairman, and in his speech he referred to the proceedings which had just occurred at Accrington as illustrating the system to which it was sought to put an end.

The Rev. J. BUGBY, the first speaker, read a letter from the Rev. Andrew Reed, who has just settled in the town, regretting that his service prevented attendance at a meeting in support of a movement with which he had long been identified. Mr. B. expressed his belief that the time was coming when Churchmen would say, as the heathen mariners said to the prophet, "What shall we do unto thee, that the sea may be calm unto us?" and the State would reply to the Church as Jonah did to the distressed sailors, "Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea be calm unto you; for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you." (Great applause.) The Church should take up the Jonah of State patronage and control, and cast her forth, and there should be a holy and blessed calm. (Cheers.)

After THOMAS SIMPSON, Esq., had briefly seconded the first resolution, Mr. CARVELL WILLIAMS, one of

the deputation from London, spoke, and gave to the meeting an important series of facts, showing how little the ecclesiastical revenues of the country did for religion, and how much of the religious work of the time was done by means of voluntarism.

The Rev. W. C. SQUIER said:—

I deem it necessary, as a Unitarian minister, to identify myself with the proceedings of the Liberation Society, because I do not consider that the denomination to which I belong has done its duty in this particular. (Hear.) Our ministers and our laymen have not stood forward as boldly as I think they ought on behalf of the weak against the strong, and therefore I am anxious, as far as I can, to make up for the shortcomings which in others I deplore. We, in common with other Dissenting bodies, have to thank the Liberation Society for much good that it has done. It has brought together the scattered bands of Nonconformity, and has made of them a united, well-disciplined, and victorious army. It has directed the manner how, and the time when, to attack the House of Commons on the Church-rate question, until hardly a member of Parliament is left in the country who believes that the present state of things can long remain unchanged. (Cheers.) And it led us on in that successful opposition which we made to the Religious Census, when we defeated Lord Palmerston and his Conservative allies. (Cheers.) Because the Liberation Society has done those and other similar good deeds, I hold it to be our duty to strengthen its hands, for I cannot consent that we should enjoy benefits to gain which we have not contributed, or that we should sleep on laurels which we have not won. (Hear, hear.) I have spoken of the Religious Census question. I attended in the gallery of the House of Commons when that matter was discussed, I saw the flood of petitions which was poured in from the Dissenters of our land, I listened to the intensely interesting debate that then took place, and I gloried in the triumph which was won. And with the proceedings of that memorable Wednesday afternoon before my eyes, I cannot but feel grateful to the Liberation Society for having made itself felt in Parliament and in the country as the guardian of the rights and liberties of the English Nonconformists. Because it has done so much, and because it wishes to do much more, I think that it deserves our "moral and pecuniary support." As I am not a rich man I cannot give to it my money, as I would do if I could; but I can and will give to it the moral support I am able to afford. (Loud cheers.)

Dr. FOSTER, of London, followed, and spoke of the influence likely to be exerted on the followers of the Church-rate question by Mr. Disraeli's declaration of policy. He also gave from the parliamentary returns figures showing how Church-rates were expended in that locality.

The Rev. Messrs. RENDELL and BOYDEN next spoke, and were followed by the Rev. C. WILLIAMS, of Accrington, whose vigorous denunciations of the dangerous course which the Vicar of Whalley was pursuing in enforcing Easter-dues were responded to with enthusiasm. He said that he had succeeded in protecting the authorities from violence this time, but henceforth he would have nothing to do with similar proceedings.

After a vote of thanks to the Chairman and Deputation, proposed by the Rev. R. SLATE, the meeting separated at a late hour.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.

After waiting several years the society has at length succeeded in breaking ground in this populous manufacturing town, a meeting of a very numerous and influential kind having been held in the Ryecroft School-room, on Thursday evening. It was rumoured that the Orangemen of the town would attend, and, perhaps, as many as a third of the audience were opponents, but good order and temper were preserved throughout. On the platform were the leading ministers of the town, and several magistrates, aldermen, and town-councillors.

HUGH MASON, Esq., who has lately vacated the mayor's chair, after three years' tenure of office, was chairman, and opened the meeting in a spirited speech.

The Rev. J. G. ROGERS (Independent) said that he had resolved now to co-operate with the society for three reasons—first, because of the declaration of the Manchester clergy that they would not co-operate in other matters with those who belonged to it; next, because the recent proceedings at Accrington showed that there was no guarantee that they would continue to be unmolested at Ashton; and, lastly, because the late speech of Mr. Disraeli was a challenge to the whole Nonconformist body to stand by their principles.

Mr. CARVELL WILLIAMS took the opening remarks of Mr. Rogers as his key-note, and contrasted the state of things prevailing when the Liberation Society was formed and the present hopeful position of ecclesiastical matters. He recounted what had already been secured, and, in referring to the burial laws, urged the people of Ashton, in providing themselves with a new cemetery, to carry out the liberal intentions of the legislature.

The Rev. E. MINTON having spoken, the resolution was carried, though not by a very large majority. This was occasioned by the fact that the opposition had, up to that time, kept silence, and the voting was looked upon as a matter of form rather than as one of importance. Subsequently, when the Chairman called for a show of both hands on all the questions, the promoters of the meeting had a large majority.

The Rev. J. GORDON (Unitarian) was the next speaker, and pointed out with great force and clearness the real question at issue.

N. B. SUTCLIFFE, Esq., seconded the second resolution, which was supported by

Dr. FOSTER, who gave detailed information relative to the mode in which the society conducted its parliamentary operations, and referred at length

to Church-rates, the Grammar-schools, and the Bible Monopoly.

At this point a person in the meeting asked some questions about the origin of Church property, and was told in reply that, if it were wished, there should be another meeting for that purpose, instead of their going on after ten o'clock at night. There was some demur to this, and when it was proposed (by the Rev. T. Green, Mr. Mills, and Mr. Alderman Buckley) that a local committee of the society be formed, an amendment against the proposal was moved, but decisively rejected.

The meeting did not separate till nearly eleven o'clock, though numbers had remained standing all the time. Several gentlemen put down their names for 5s. a-piece for carrying on the work of the present season.

BIRKENHEAD.

The SECRETARY of the society, and Mr. CALLAWAY, of Birmingham, addressed a meeting on Tuesday, the 10th, at Birkenhead, where nothing had previously been done on the society's behalf. The Rev. S. H. Booth was chairman, and the Rev. J. Mann, Messrs. Duke, Craven, and others, took part.

SCOTLAND.

On the 28th November the people of Biggar received a visit from Mr. Oulton, the agent of the Liberation Society. The meeting was held in the North United Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Dr. Smith, minister of the place, occupied the chair, supported by the Rev. Mr. Dunlop, minister of the South United Presbyterian Congregation. The address, which was listened to with the most marked attention and produced a very favourable impression, was lucid in its statements, pointed and animated in its appeals, and withal Christianly catholic in its tone and spirit. There is reason to hope that this meeting, with Mr. Oulton's former appearance, may do something to excite an interest in the objects and operation of a society to which Scotch as well as English Dissent is especially indebted.—From a Correspondent.

At Portobello there has been a meeting held to form a local committee. The Rev. G. Deans was named President, and the Rev. W. Lowe and Mr. H. Calder, Vice-President; Mr. J. H. Baggie, Treasurer, and Mr. W. Newland, Secretary. Mr. Councillor GORMIE, of Edinburgh, urged the Portobello volunteers to afford the utmost support to a society whose exertions in the cause of religious liberty were so unremitting.

Mr. OULTON has also preached a voluntary sermon to a thousand persons at Jedburgh, and held a public meeting. He has also attended meetings at Galashiels and St. Andrews.

DISSENTERS' DEFENCE MEETING AT BRADFORD.

An unmistakeable Dissenting demonstration took place at Bradford on Wednesday evening, Dec. 12. It was a public meeting, indeed, of the Liberation Society, but it extended itself far more comprehensively, even so as to include some of the leading and most respected Churchmen of the town. The meeting was held in the Lecture Theatre of the Mechanics' Institute, which was crowded in every part, and very many were unable to obtain admittance. The wide-spreading platform was filled with ministers and laymen of the Dissenting colleges and communions, both of the town and district. Benjamin Harrison, Esq., presided; and among the gentlemen on the platform were the Revs. G. W. Conder, of Leeds, Dr. Fraser, J. R. Campbell, M.A., J. H. Ryland, H. Dowson, J. P. Chown, H. J. Betts, H. B. Creak, J. Gregory, and T. Ellery; Messrs. E. Kenion, Councillor Pollard, W. Byles, James Law, William Stead, George Osborne, Thomas Aked, — Yates, John Cooke, &c., &c.

The Rev. J. H. RYLAND, local secretary of the society, moved, and Mr. William Stead, treasurer, seconded a resolution calling upon Mr. Harrison to take the chair, and it was carried with acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN announced that the Rev. Dr. Acworth intended to have been present, but had been prevented from carrying out that intention. He then said the object of the meeting was to talk about a society which had been in existence many years, but which had evidently not been very well understood in high quarters, namely, the Society for the Liberation of Religion from State Patronage and Control. He recommended the speakers not to flinch from their task, observing that they had had a splendid precedent given them in Bradford recently; but at the same time let them express themselves with a little more charity than was done on the occasion to which he referred.

The Rev. H. DOWSON moved the first resolution, as follows:—

That this meeting holds that the principles of the Liberation Society are in accordance with the dictates of reason and the teachings of the New Testament—that the proceedings of the society have, throughout its career, been undisguised and straightforward; and that, in the prosecution of the objects of the society, the committee and council are entitled to the unabated confidence and support of the public.

They should be taunted, he said, with being political Dissenters and political agitators. He thought that every right-minded citizen ought to be a politician. For what was a politician? He was a man who took an interest in his fellow-men, in the destinies of nations, in the movements of Providence. He

was a man who took a special interest in the weal of his own country, and not less in the stability of the throne than in the liberty of the people. (Hear, hear.) The taunt came with very bad grace from the quarter where they heard it whispered. Did not their Christian opponents, if he might call them so, make religion a political thing? Was theirs not a political Church as well as a spiritual Church? (Hear, hear.) Was it not sustained by act of Parliament? Did they not go to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and ask for Government grants to support it? Had they not confounded the claims of Caesar and of God in this matter? And when the Dissenters came to emancipate themselves from this thralldom, should they be taunted with being political Dissenters and agitators? Why the taunt would make them angry if it were not so contemptible. (Hear, hear.) He then proceeded to support the principle which, he said, the Liberation Society had held from its first existence, and which it had never swerved from, namely, that there was no recognition in the New Testament of the authority of the civil magistrate in matters of religion. He next referred to a published record of the proceedings of the Anti-State Church Society, now called the Liberation Society, at its formation in 1844, to show that its proceedings had been undisguised and straightforward, and that there had been no "masking of great principles" on the part of the society, as had been alleged by the Rev. Canon Stowell. The speaker also defended the society against the charge of advocating spoliation. Commenting on the speech lately delivered by Mr. Disraeli, in Buckinghamshire, he remarked that that right hon. gentleman said he looked to a triumphant future for the Church of England. He (Mr. Dowson) echoed that sentiment, but on very different grounds. It would not be by inflicting on Dissenters disabilities, it would not be by binding round the necks of Dissenters Church-rates, which their fathers could not bear, and which they would not endure—(loud applause)—it was not by such a course of injustice as that that the Episcopal Church of this land should have that triumphant future, but by its separation from the trammels of the State, by its glorious spiritual freedom. (Applause.)

Mr. E. KENION, in an energetic, argumentative speech, seconded the resolution. They made no attack, he said, upon the Church of England; they only attacked the prison-house in which the Church was confined. The conclusion to be drawn from Canon Stowell's arguments was that politics were a bad thing in Dissenters, and a good thing in Churchmen:—

Now, what had Dissenters done which was so injurious to their country that would justify the Rev. Canon Stowell in making such an assertion? He referred to the times and acts of Cromwell, and to the part the Dissenters had taken in driving from this country the Stuarts, and how in a thousand instances they had proved their loyalty to the House of Brunswick, and their respect and affection for our present beloved Queen. These facts proved the wickedness of the assertion that Dissent was incompatible with loyalty, and that "the friends of the Liberation Society would never be satisfied without a republic." Why, there was not a political measure, in modern times, to which the whole country could point with pride and exultation, which had not been secured by the patriotic devotion and activity of the Dissenters of this country. (Hear, hear.) Reference had been made to the abolition of the slave-trade, and the abolition of slavery itself. Who was it that gave the right arm of strength and power to the early struggles of Wilberforce and Clarkson, and to their coadjutors Brougham and Buxton? The political Dissenters of this country. (Hear, hear.) Were the political Dissenters, then, to be asked to abandon politics after such glorious results to humanity and the race through the sacrifices and struggles they had made? There might be some difference of opinion among those present as to the Reform Bill. But there were few people who would not admit that that measure was in the right direction. That measure was supported by Dissenters, while it was opposed by the prelates and priests of the Church to which Canon Stowell belonged. He did not claim for the Dissenters of this country all the merit for carrying these reforms, for they were often led by the laity of the Church, while they were opposed by the clergy. It was the peculiar glory of the Nonconformists that they had a pure religion, which led them to defend their inalienable rights, and to be prepared to become martyrs, if need were, to the great principles which they espoused. If there was anything grand or glorious in the constitution under which we lived it was that it was the impress of the freedom for which our Puritan forefathers struggled and bled. (Hear, hear.) History was proud of the ancestry of the Dissenters, and he called upon those of the present day not to let history be ashamed of them—far rather that Dissent should perish.

He urged the Dissenters to stick true to their own colours, to show to the world that they could be Christians while they were politicians, to set an example to such men as the Rev. Canon Stowell, who felt disposed to sneer at their political life and action, and to prove, by giving their adhesion to the Liberation Society, and helping it on with its efforts, that they could at any rate be men. (Hear, hear.)

The Rev. G. W. CONDER supported the resolution. He said he appeared there in the character of a political Dissenter. No doubt it was very sad to have to appear in such a character at any time and anywhere. No doubt it would be much better, and he for one should be very glad if they could not only drop the adjective but the substantive too in the appellation, and not only cease to be political Dissenters, but cease to be Dissenters at all. (Hear, hear.) No doubt many of their good Evangelical Church friends who were kind enough to co-operate with them in a few Christian works, and who seemed to think it a grand concession and a mighty virtue in them to do so, felt very much aggrieved

that they, political Dissenters, should seek the separation of the Church from the State. They had a very simple recipe for their Church friends to get rid of their grievances. They said to them, "Join us heartily in trying to get rid of that mixing of politics and religion which we seek to destroy, but which you uphold, and when we have succeeded you will hear no more of political Dissenters." (Hear, hear.) He thought their Church friends made a very great and very amusing mistake in calling them by that name. It seemed to him they ought to be called spiritual Dissenters and not political, for they sought to disentangle this mixture which so much grieved their good friends; they sought to separate the two things which their friends, in the kind advice they gave to them, said ought not to be united. (Hear, hear.) But whether political or not, they could not and would not desist from their aim, and they thanked their Church friends very much that they had at length come out of the porch into the open church-yard to discuss this matter with them. (Hear, hear.) They were not afraid of the discussion of the matter. The more discussion the better was their motto, and had been for some time, and they had been longing for their friends of the Church to come out, he did not know how long. (Hear, hear.) Now that they had got their ear and their tongue they should be sure to get the public ear, and that was all the Dissenters wanted. They were not afraid of submitting this matter to the earnest judgment of the whole of the public of this land, nor had they any shadow of a doubt as to the result. The speaker then made some telling remarks upon the speeches delivered at the late meeting in Bradford of the Church Defence Association. He said one great fallacy seemed to underlie all the arguments of their Church friends in this controversy; they seemed to assume that the fact of their being established gave them a right to be so. (Hear, hear.) The Dissenters connected with the Liberation Society were not seeking to aggress upon any of the money which had been left to the Church; they did not envy her any of her institutions: only do not let her go to Parliament to ask for grants of money which came out of their pockets. In that sense they were aggressors, and in nothing else, and did not mean to be. Referring to the speech made the other day by Mr. Disraeli, who said that our parochial system is the basis of our system of local Government, and that on local Government political liberty mainly depended, Mr. Conder said it reminded him very much of a juggler he once saw, years ago. He first of all brought in a three-legged table, and on that he put three decanters; then on these another three-legged table, then two decanters, and two decanters on the top of these, and then he got on the decanters himself, and began to spin no end of things on the ends of no end of sticks. They could imagine him saying, "Don't shake the table, or you'll shake me down: to which they ought to reply, Then you should not have got up there. So when Mr. Disraeli tells us we must not breathe the word separation, lest we should ruin the whole fabric of British political liberty, we might say, why do you put it there then? But Mr. Disraeli means nothing of the sort, and does not think anybody else believes it. (Laughter and cheers.) Mr. Conder concluded by saying:—

As the Church has challenged us to speak out on the matter, we tell her we are not surprised to find her in such a plight as she is in to-day. We regard her as the one unripe fruit of the glorious Reformation. Many valuable things have been borne on that tree, which have gone on growing like ever-ripening fruits on the tree of liberty. One by one these have dropped off, and scattered seeds of blessing all around. But there she hangs, neither ripening nor rotting—with too much divine life to do the last, too much secular sap to do the first; and now when the fresh breeze of liberty, like the first breath of Spring, blows upon her, she shakes and fears her end. Let her come forth in her own simple might—leave hold of the arm of law and walk by her own strength—let her put forth from her the wages of injustice and spoil—let her trust to the forces and resources which God has given her, and she may hold all she has worth holding, and win back much that she has lost. (Loud cheers.) But if too fond of power, place, and help, the divided material that is within her will bring her to some worse fate than we threaten her with, and history will say that she deserved it. (Loud applause.)

The resolution was then put and carried unanimously.

The Rev. Dr. FRASER, of Airedale College, moved the second resolution:—

That as public events evidently point to inevitable changes in the ecclesiastical arrangements of the nation, the members of the Establishment being themselves utterly divided in doctrine and sentiment, and being, in the aggregate, only a minority of the people, this meeting considers it the bounden duty of Dissenters to avail themselves of every suitable opportunity to impress upon the Legislature the fact, that no ecclesiastical arrangements, involving the Establishment principle, will be satisfactory to the nation; and that the only equitable principles on this subject are those embodied in the constitution of the Liberation Society.

In the course of his speech he said that he, as a Protestant Dissenter, there publicly and indignantly repudiated every insinuation of disloyalty, come from whose lips it might. (Hear, hear, and applause.) As Protestant Dissenters they yielded to no Churchmen in the land in their affection for their gracious Queen, and in their attachment to the great and glorious principles of the English constitution. He congratulated the meeting on having taken that bold step in defence of what they believed to be great and fundamental principles. A Church Establishment must be defended on one of two grounds—either religious or political. No argument was advanced in favour of either ground. Dr. Fraser maintained that the Establishment could not be defended on either ground, without the advocate

falling into serious dilemmas and difficulties. He replied to the allegation of the Rev. Canon Stowell that the Establishment was a defence of orthodoxy, by pointing to the dangerous heresies espoused by some of the distinguished men in the Church as a refutation of the assertion.

Mr. Alderman BROWN seconded the resolution. He referred to the insulting language that had been used towards the Dissenters by the Churchmen. As to their numbers, the census of chapel and church-going people, taken in 1851, showed that the Church did not hold the pre-eminence her friends claimed for her. He most heartily thanked Mr. Disraeli for his recent speech on the Church. He thought it was the best speech that gentlemen had ever made. It placed us on very strong ground indeed. Mr. Disraeli advocated "no surrender" on political grounds. On these grounds alone, therefore, was the connexion of the Church with the State a necessity—not from any authority derived from the New Testament—not on the principles promulgated by Jesus Christ. Referring to a meeting held at Taunton a short time ago, he said that Archdeacon Denison remarked that if the affairs of the chapels were searched out, it would be found that they were nearly all in a state of bankruptcy. (Laughter.) He was astonished at hearing such a statement. Mr. Brown quoted from a document showing the amount spent by the Wesleyan body in chapel building, and the amount of liabilities, which clearly showed that body, at least, to be in a complete state of solvency. He had no doubt there were gentlemen on the platform who were also prepared to correct the statement of the archdeacon with respect to their denominations also. And besides all the money they spent in building and repairs, it must be remembered that they supported their own ministers, and contributed largely to missionary and other societies. (Applause.) Such a statement as that uttered by Archdeacon Denison was nothing less than a libel. (Hear, hear.) It would be far better for the Churchmen, instead of establishing Defence Societies, to advocate a reform in the Church. He pointed them to the scene which occurred only the other day at Accrington, and he asked if such scenes would endear that Church to the hearts of the people of England? (Hear, hear.) He then alluded to the condition of the poor curates, and said that it would redound more to the credit of the Bishop of London, if he, instead of begging for cast-off wearing apparel for the curates, and at the same time pocketing his 10,000*l.* per annum, would come out and advocate a reform and a new state of things in the Church to which he belonged. (Loud applause.)

The Rev. J. H. RYLAND supported the resolution. He said that many excellent arguments had been used, and he trusted that all who had heard them would ponder over them. At that advanced hour he would not occupy more of their time except to supplement what had been said by a few incontrovertible testimonies of bishops and other eminent persons, as to the unhealthiness and unsoundness of the Church of England, as by law established. Bishop Louth, in his visitation sermon at Durham, in the year 1758, said:—

Constantine embraced the Christian faith: he became the nursing father of the Church. . . . Alas! from the very era of the security, splendour, and prosperity of that Church, we must date the decay of the true spirit of Christianity. It still continued, indeed, to increase for some time outwardly in extent and numbers; but daily suffered within a much greater loss, in the visible diminution of faith, holiness, humility, and charity. Honour, wealth, and power, soon excited pride, avarice, and ambition.

Then there was the Bishop (Bathurst) of Norwich, in a speech in the House of Lords, on March 16th, 1827, confessed "that the clergy were always opposed to, or at least refused to join in, measures for the improvement of the people." And it must be remembered that the time this sentiment was uttered differed much from the present time. Then the Church was ascendant, now it was in danger. There was also the testimony of Archbishop Whately, who said:—

I have been always an open, steady and active advocate for the removal of civil disabilities, founded on differences of religious profession; not from indifference, but from a deliberate conviction that the founder of our religion did not design or permit Christians, or Christians of any particular denomination, to claim or enjoy, as such, a monopoly of civil rights and secular power.

Now he (Mr. Ryland) challenged the Archbishop of Dublin to carry out this to the fullest extent. He now came to Bishop Hobart, of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of New York, who, in 1825, came over to England on behalf of his own church, and after what he saw in England went back with such feelings that he gave utterance to the following words:—

With the union of Church and State commenced the great corruptions of Christianity. And so firmly persuaded am I of the deleterious effects of this union, that, if I must choose the one or the other, I would take the persecution of the State, rather than her favours; her frowns rather than her smiles; her repulses rather than her embraces.

So strong were his objections, that he was the only Protestant prelate who refused, at the bidding of the Government, to preach a funeral sermon on the death of a high dignitary in that land. Mr. Ryland also quoted from Gilbert Wakefield's reply to Bishop Watson's letter in favour of Pitt's Income-tax, as follows:—

In truth, the very worst features of these constitutions is a tendency to *dim and change the pure gold* of such noble characters as (Bishop Watson) this gentleman, to a brassy adulteration of a much lower standard; and they may be compared not unfitly to the dragon's tail

of a grievance they did not much care for the preservation of a theory; but when it came to be understood that this exaction was absolutely essential to the existence of the Establishment, they would say—then the Establishment must go. (Loud cheers.) Mr. Disraeli's assertion that our political liberties were based on our parochial system—that that system was an essential part of the Establishment, and that the Establishment necessitated Church-rates—was an adoption of the Hindoo idea that the world rested on the tortoise's back. (Laughter.)

Mr. ECCLES moved the first resolution, which was as follows:—

That this conference reiterates the conviction expressed repeatedly and in many forms during the last twenty-five years—that the levying of Church-rates necessarily inflicts injustice on and does violence to the consciences of large classes of the community; that it occasions disturbance and ill-feeling in a large number of parishes where but for the existence of such a system there would be harmony and peace; and that the extent to which rates have been abolished has conclusively shown that neither the interests of religion nor those of the Church of England would suffer from their entire extinction by the Legislature.

The speaker showed that in parishes where Church-rates had been abolished, the Establishment had gained a higher place in the respect of the inhabitants, and had suffered no injury in its means of maintenance.

Mr. URQUHART, the seconder, pointed to the experience of Liverpool as amply justifying the resolution. The rate was lost in 1854 by a majority of 537. Since then every attempt has been made by the clergy that zeal could devise, to persuade and drill the parishioners to vote for a Church-rate, which enabled them to bring to the poll in 1855 2,337 Church-rate men, but 2,932 no-Church-rate men walked up to the poll, and the rate was lost again by a majority of 595. (Cheers.) The speaker also criticised the evidence of Dr. Hume, as to Liverpool, before the Lords' Committee.

Rev. CHARLES WILLIAMS apologised for being late by explaining that there had been the first Easter dues sale at Accrington that day, and he had been implored by the superintendent of police to stay and prevent the people breaking the peace. He entered at length into the Easter dues question, to show that the clergy at Accrington had been wanton aggressors, and also what was the real character of that parochial system which Mr. Disraeli lauded. His speech excited great interest.

Mr. RICHARD JOHNSON moved, Mr. Councillor STURT seconded, and Mr. R. S. ASHTON supported the next resolution, which was as follows:—

That this conference is convinced that any attempt to perpetuate Church-rates by a mere amendment of the law would certainly fail to correct the admitted evils of the system. That, in particular, it believes that any scheme of exemption from payment would not only be a dangerous fiscal innovation, but would practically fail to afford relief to the opponents of the exaction in a large number of parishes; that it also believes that it would lead in others to a revival of agitation which has now happily ceased, as well as tend to throw upon parochial rates expenses now readily met by voluntary contributions; that this conference, therefore, adheres to the demand for total abolition as the only satisfactory mode of terminating this long-continued struggle.

Mr. CHARLES E. RAWLINS moved, and the Rev. Mr. STEVENS seconded:—

That this conference, while congratulating the opponents of Church-rates upon the fact that their unconditional abolition still continues to command a majority of the House of Commons in its favour, would earnestly recommend the most vigorous action during the ensuing session of Parliament, in order to convince the House of Lords that the time has at length come for yielding to the opinions so frequently recorded by the representatives of the people.

The mover suggested that a delegate meeting in London should be convened by the Liberation Society to consider the following resolution:—

That all the Dissenting congregations throughout the country should be invited to resist the imposition and the payment of Church-rates on and after the year 1862—first by such legal methods as each case may suggest, and, if unsuccessful in this, then by passive resistance.

After Professor GRIFFITHS and Mr. GURNEY had spoken to a resolution, urging more systematic opposition to rates in parishes, and Mr. RAWLINS, sen., with other gentlemen from neighbouring places, had given some practical information, the conference was dissolved, having had a lengthened sitting.

MEETINGS OF THE LIBERATION SOCIETY.

PRESTON.

A large meeting was held at the Corn Exchange on Wednesday last. A small but, apparently, organised body of opponents was present, but they contented themselves with voting against the resolutions, and the meeting was conducted with the greatest order.

Mr. Councillor HASLAM was chairman, and in his speech he referred to the proceedings which had just occurred at Accrington as illustrating the system to which it was sought to put an end.

The Rev. J. BUGBY, the first speaker, read a letter from the Rev. Andrew Reed, who has just settled in the town, regretting that his service prevented attendance at a meeting in support of a movement with which he had long been identified. Mr. B. expressed his belief that the time was coming when Churchmen would say, as the heathen mariners said to the prophet, "What shall we do unto thee, that the sea may be calm unto us?" and the State would reply to the Church as Jonah did to the distressed sailors, "Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea be calm unto you; for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you." (Great applause.) The Church should take up the Jonah of State patronage and control, and cast her forth, and there should be a holy and blessed calm. (Cheers.)

After THOMAS SIMPSON, Esq., had briefly seconded the first resolution, Mr. CARVELL WILLIAMS, one of

the deputation from London, spoke, and gave to the meeting an important series of facts, showing how little the ecclesiastical revenues of the country did for religion, and how much of the religious work of the time was done by means of voluntarism.

The Rev. W. C. SQUIER said:—

I deem it necessary, as a Unitarian minister, to identify myself with the proceedings of the Liberation Society, because I do not consider that the denomination to which I belong has done its duty in this particular. (Hear.) Our ministers and our laymen have not stood forward as boldly as I think they ought on behalf of the weak against the strong, and therefore I am anxious, as far as I can, to make up for the shortcomings which in others I deplore. We, in common with other Dissenting bodies, have to thank the Liberation Society for much good that it has done. It has brought together the scattered bands of Nonconformity, and has made of them a united, well-disciplined, and victorious army. It has directed the manner how, and the time when, to attack the House of Commons on the Church-rate question, until hardly a member of Parliament is left in the country who believes that the present state of things can long remain unchanged. (Cheers.) And it led us on in that successful opposition which we made to the Religious Census, when we defeated Lord Palmerston and his Conservative allies. (Cheers.) Because the Liberation Society has done those and other similar good deeds, I hold it to be our duty to strengthen its hands, for I cannot consent that we should enjoy benefits to gain which we have not contributed, or that we should sleep on laurels which we have not won. (Hear, hear.) I have spoken of the Religious Census question. I attended in the gallery of the House of Commons when that matter was discussed, I saw the flood of petitions which was poured in from the Dissenters of our land, I listened to the intensely interesting debate that then took place, and I gloried in the triumph which was won. And with the proceedings of that memorable Wednesday afternoon before my eyes, I cannot but feel grateful to the Liberation Society for having made itself felt in Parliament and in the country as the guardian of the rights and liberties of the English Nonconformists. Because it has done so much, and because it wishes to do much more, I think that it deserves our "moral and pecuniary support." As I am not a rich man I cannot give to it my money, as I would do if I could; but I can and will give to it the moral support I am able to afford. (Loud cheers.)

Dr. FOSTER, of London, followed, and spoke of the influence likely to be exerted on the followers of the Church-rate question by Mr. Disraeli's declaration of policy. He also gave from the parliamentary returns figures showing how Church-rates were expended in that locality.

The Rev. Messrs. RENDELL and BOYDEN next spoke, and were followed by the Rev. C. WILLIAMS, of Accrington, whose vigorous denunciations of the dangerous course which the Vicar of Whalley was pursuing in enforcing Easter-dues were responded to with enthusiasm. He said that he had succeeded in protecting the authorities from violence this time, but henceforth he would have nothing to do with similar proceedings.

After a vote of thanks to the Chairman and Deputation, proposed by the Rev. R. SLATE, the meeting separated at a late hour.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.

After waiting several years the society has at length succeeded in breaking ground in this populous manufacturing town, a meeting of a very numerous and influential kind having been held in the Ryecroft School-room, on Thursday evening. It was rumoured that the Orangemen of the town would attend, and, perhaps, as many as a third of the audience were opponents, but good order and temper were preserved throughout. On the platform were the leading ministers of the town, and several magistrates, aldermen, and town-councillors.

HUGH MASON, Esq., who has lately vacated the mayor's chair, after three years' tenure of office, was chairman, and opened the meeting in a spirited speech.

The Rev. J. G. ROGERS (Independent) said that he had resolved now to co-operate with the society for three reasons—first, because of the declaration of the Manchester clergy that they would not co-operate in other matters with those who belonged to it; next, because the recent proceedings at Accrington showed that there was no guarantee that they would continue to be unmolested at Ashton; and, lastly, because the late speech of Mr. Disraeli was a challenge to the whole Nonconformist body to stand by their principles.

Mr. CARVELL WILLIAMS took the opening remarks of Mr. Rogers as his key-note, and contrasted the state of things prevailing when the Liberation Society was formed and the present hopeful position of ecclesiastical matters. He recounted what had already been secured, and, in referring to the burial laws, urged the people of Ashton, in providing themselves with a new cemetery, to carry out the liberal intentions of the legislature.

The Rev. E. MINTON having spoken, the resolution was carried, though not by a very large majority. This was occasioned by the fact that the opposition had, up to that time, kept silence, and the voting was looked upon as a matter of form rather than as one of importance. Subsequently, when the Chairman called for a show of both hands on all the questions, the promoters of the meeting had a large majority.

The Rev. J. GORDON (Unitarian) was the next speaker, and pointed out with great force and clearness the real question at issue.

N. B. SUTCLIFFE, Esq., seconded the second resolution, which was supported by

Dr. FOSTER, who gave detailed information relative to the mode in which the society conducted its parliamentary operations, and referred at length

to Church-rates, the Grammar-schools, and the Bible Monopoly.

At this point a person in the meeting asked some questions about the origin of Church property, and was told in reply that, if it were wished, there should be another meeting for that purpose, instead of their going on after ten o'clock at night. There was some demur to this, and when it was proposed (by the Rev. T. Green, Mr. Mills, and Mr. Alderman Buckley) that a local committee of the society be formed, an amendment against the proposal was moved, but decisively rejected.

The meeting did not separate till nearly eleven o'clock, though numbers had remained standing all the time. Several gentlemen put down their names for 5s. a-piece for carrying on the work of the present season.

BIRKENHEAD.

The SECRETARY of the society, and Mr. CALLAWAY, of Birmingham, addressed a meeting on Tuesday, the 10th, at Birkenhead, where nothing had previously been done on the society's behalf. The Rev. S. H. Booth was chairman, and the Rev. J. Mann, Messrs. Duke, Craven, and others, took part.

SCOTLAND.

On the 28th November the people of Biggar received a visit from Mr. Oulton, the agent of the Liberation Society. The meeting was held in the North United Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Dr. Smith, minister of the place, occupied the chair, supported by the Rev. Mr. Dunlop, minister of the South United Presbyterian Congregation. The address, which was listened to with the most marked attention and produced a very favourable impression, was lucid in its statements, pointed and animated in its appeals, and withal Christianly catholic in its tone and spirit. There is reason to hope that this meeting, with Mr. Oulton's former appearance, may do something to excite an interest in the objects and operation of a society to which Scotch as well as English Dissent is especially indebted.—*From a Correspondent.*

At Portobello there has been a meeting held to form a local committee. The Rev. G. Deans was named President, and the Rev. W. Lowe and Mr. H. Calder, Vice-President; Mr. J. H. Bagnall, Treasurer, and Mr. W. Newland, Secretary. Mr. Councillor GORRIE, of Edinburgh, urged the Portobello volunteers to afford the utmost support to a society whose exertions in the cause of religious liberty were so unremitting.

Mr. OULTON has also preached a voluntary sermon to a thousand persons at Jedburgh, and held a public meeting. He has also attended meetings at Galashiels and St. Andrews.

DISSENTERS' DEFENCE MEETING AT BRADFORD.

An unmitigable Dissenting demonstration took place at Bradford on Wednesday evening, Dec. 12. It was a public meeting, indeed, of the Liberation Society, but it extended itself far more comprehensively, even so as to include some of the leading and most respected Churchmen of the town. The meeting was held in the Lecture Theatre of the Mechanics' Institute, which was crowded in every part, and very many were unable to obtain admittance. The wide-spreading platform was filled with ministers and laymen of the Dissenting colleges and communions, both of the town and district. Benjamin Harrison, Esq., presided; and among the gentlemen on the platform were the Revs. G. W. Conder, of Leeds, Dr. Fraser, J. R. Campbell, M.A., J. H. Ryland, H. Dowson, J. P. Chown, H. J. Betts, H. B. Creak, J. Gregory, and T. Ellery; Messrs. E. Kenion, Councillor Pollard, W. Byles, James Law, William Stead, George Osborne, Thomas Aked, — Yates, John Cooke, &c., &c.

The Rev. J. H. RYLAND, local secretary of the society, moved, and Mr. William Stead, treasurer, seconded a resolution calling upon Mr. Harrison to take the chair, and it was carried with acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN announced that the Rev. Dr. Acworth intended to have been present, but had been prevented from carrying out that intention. He then said the object of the meeting was to talk about a society which had been in existence many years, but which had evidently not been very well understood in high quarters, namely, the Society for the Liberation of Religion from State Patronage and Control. He recommended the speakers not to flinch from their task, observing that they had had a splendid precedent given them in Bradford recently; but at the same time let them express themselves with a little more charity than was done on the occasion to which he referred.

The Rev. H. DOWSON moved the first resolution, as follows:—

That this meeting holds that the principles of the Liberation Society are in accordance with the dictates of reason and the teachings of the New Testament—that the proceedings of the society have, throughout its career, been undisguised and straightforward; and that, in the prosecution of the objects of the society, the committee and council are entitled to the unabated confidence and support of the public.

They should be taunted, he said, with being political Dissenters and political agitators. He thought that every right-minded citizen ought to be a politician. For what was a politician? He was a man who took an interest in his fellow-men, in the destinies of nations, in the movements of Providence. He

was a man who took a special interest in the weal of his own country, and not less in the stability of the throne than in the liberty of the people. (Hear, hear.) The taunt came with very bad grace from the quarter where they heard it whispered. Did not their Christian opponents, if he might call them so, make religion a political thing? Was theirs not a political Church as well as a spiritual Church? (Hear, hear.) Was it not sustained by act of Parliament? Did they not go to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and ask for Government grants to support it? Had they not confounded the claims of Cæsar and of God in this matter? And when the Dissenters came to emancipate themselves from this thralldom, should they be taunted with being political Dissenters and agitators? Why the taunt would make them angry if it were not so contemptible. (Hear, hear.) He then proceeded to support the principle which, he said, the Liberation Society had held from its first existence, and which it had never swerved from, namely, that there was no recognition in the New Testament of the authority of the civil magistrate in matters of religion. He next referred to a published record of the proceedings of the Anti-State Church Society, now called the Liberation Society, at its formation in 1844, to show that its proceedings had been undisguised and straightforward, and that there had been no "masking of great principles" on the part of the society, as had been alleged by the Rev. Canon Stowell. The speaker also defended the society against the charge of advocating spoliation. Commenting on the speech lately delivered by Mr. Disraeli, in Buckinghamshire, he remarked that that right hon. gentleman said he looked to a triumphant future for the Church of England. He (Mr. Dowson) echoed that sentiment, but on very different grounds. It would not be by inflicting on Dissenters disabilities, it would not be by binding round the necks of Dissenters Church-rates, which their fathers could not bear, and which they would not endure—(loud applause)—it was not by such a course of injustice as that that the Episcopal Church of this land should have that triumphant future, but by its separation from the trammels of the State, by its glorious spiritual freedom. (Applause.)

Mr. E. KENION, in an energetic, argumentative speech, seconded the resolution. They made no attack, he said, upon the Church of England; they only attacked the prison-house in which the Church was confined. The conclusion to be drawn from Canon Stowell's arguments was that politics were a bad thing in Dissenters, and a good thing in Churchmen:—

Now, what had Dissenters done which was so injurious to their country that would justify the Rev. Canon Stowell in making such an assertion? He referred to the times and acts of Cromwell, and to the part the Dissenters had taken in driving from this country the Stuarts, and how in a thousand instances they had proved their loyalty to the House of Brunswick, and their respect and affection for our present beloved Queen. These facts proved the wickedness of the assertion that Dissent was incompatible with loyalty, and that "the friends of the Liberation Society would never be satisfied without a republic." Why, there was not a political measure, in modern times, to which the whole country could point with pride and exultation, which had not been secured by the patriotic devotion and activity of the Dissenters of this country. (Hear, hear.) Reference had been made to the abolition of the slave-trade, and the abolition of slavery itself. Who was it that gave the right arm of strength and power to the early struggles of Wilberforce and Clarkson, and to their coadjutors Brougham and Buxton? The political Dissenters of this country. (Hear, hear.) Were the political Dissenters, then, to be asked to abandon politics after such glorious results to humanity and the race through the sacrifices and struggles they had made? There might be some difference of opinion among those present as to the Reform Bill. But there were few people who would not admit that that measure was in the right direction. That measure was supported by Dissenters, while it was opposed by the prelates and priests of the Church to which Canon Stowell belonged. He did not claim for the Dissenters of this country all the merit for carrying these reforms, for they were often led by the laity of the Church, while they were opposed by the clergy. It was the peculiar glory of the Nonconformists that they had a pure religion, which led them to defend their inalienable rights, and to be prepared to become martyrs, if need were, to the great principles which they espoused. If there was anything grand or glorious in the constitution under which we lived it was that it bore the impress of the freedom for which our Puritan forefathers struggled and bled. (Hear, hear.) History was proud of the ancestry of the Dissenters, and he called upon those of the present day not to let history be ashamed of them—far rather that Dissent should perish.

He urged the Dissenters to stick true to their own colours, to show to the world that they could be Christians while they were politicians, to set an example to such men as the Rev. Canon Stowell, who felt disposed to sneer at their political life and action, and to prove, by giving their adhesion to the Liberation Society, and helping it on with its efforts, that they could at any rate be men. (Hear, hear.)

The Rev. G. W. CONDER supported the resolution. He said he appeared there in the character of a political Dissenter. No doubt it was very sad to have to appear in such a character at any time and anywhere. No doubt it would be much better, and he for one should be very glad if they could not only drop the adjective but the substantive too in the appellation, and not only cease to be political Dissenters, but cease to be Dissenters at all. (Hear, hear.) No doubt many of their good Evangelical Church friends who were kind enough to co-operate with them in a few Christian works, and who seemed to think it a grand concession and a mighty virtue in them to do so, felt very much aggrieved

that they, political Dissenters, should seek the separation of the Church from the State. They had a very simple recipe for their Church friends to get rid of their grievances. They said to them, "Join us heartily in trying to get rid of that mixing of politics and religion which we seek to destroy, but which you uphold, and when we have succeeded you will hear no more of political Dissenters." (Hear, hear.) He thought their Church friends made a very great and very amusing mistake in calling them by that name. It seemed to him they ought to be called spiritual Dissenters and not political, for they sought to disentangle this mixture which so much grieved their good friends; they sought to separate the two things which their friends, in the kind advice they gave to them, said ought not to be united. (Hear, hear.) But whether political or not, they could not and would not desist from their aim, and they thanked their Church friends very much that they had at length come out of the porch into the open church-yard to discuss this matter with them. (Hear, hear.) They were not afraid of the discussion of the matter. The more discussion the better was their motto, and had been for some time, and they had been longing for their friends of the Church to come out, he did not know how long. (Hear, hear.) Now that they had got their ear and their tongue they should be sure to get the public ear, and that was all the Dissenters wanted. They were not afraid of submitting this matter to the earnest judgment of the whole of the public of this land, nor had they any shadow of a doubt as to the result. The speaker then made some telling remarks upon the speeches delivered at the late meeting in Bradford of the Church Defence Association. He said one great fallacy seemed to underlie all the arguments of their Church friends in this controversy; they seemed to assume that the fact of their being established gave them a right to be so. (Hear, hear.) The Dissenters connected with the Liberation Society were not seeking to aggress upon any of the money which had been left to the Church; they did not envy her any of her institutions; only do not let her go to Parliament to ask for grants of money which came out of their pockets. In that sense they were aggressors, and in nothing else, and did not mean to be. Referring to the speech made the other day by Mr. Disraeli, who said that our parochial system is the basis of our system of local Government, and that on local Government political liberty mainly depended, Mr. Conder said it reminded him very much of a juggler he once saw, years ago. He first of all brought in a three-legged table, and on that he put three decanters; then on these another three-legged table, then two decanters, and two decanters on the top of these, and then he got on the decanters himself, and began to spin no end of things on the ends of no end of sticks. They could imagine him saying, Don't shake the table, or you'll shake me down: to which they ought to reply, Then you should not have got up there. So when Mr. Disraeli tells us we must not breathe the word separation, lest we should ruin the whole fabric of British political liberty, we might say, why do you put it there then? But Mr. Disraeli means nothing of the sort, and does not think anybody else believes it. (Laughter and cheers.) Mr. Conder concluded by saying:—

As the Church has challenged us to speak out on the matter, we tell her we are not surprised to find her in such a plight as she is in to-day. We regard her as the one unripe fruit of the glorious Reformation. Many valuable things have been borne on that tree, which have gone on growing like ever-ripening fruits on the tree of liberty. One by one these have dropped off, and scattered seeds of blessing all around. But there she hangs, neither ripening nor rotting—with too much divine life to do the last, too much secular sap to do the first; and now when the fresh breeze of liberty, like the first breath of Spring, blows upon her, she shakes and fears her end. Let her come forth in her own simple might—leave hold of the arm of law and walk by her own strength—let her put forth from her the wages of injustice and spoil—let her trust to the forces and resources which God has given her, and she may hold all she has worth holding, and win back much that she has lost. (Loud cheers.) But if too fond of power, place, and help, the divided material that is within her will bring her to some worse fate than we threaten her with, and history will say that she deserved it. (Loud applause.)

The resolution was then put and carried unanimously.

The Rev. Dr. FRASER, of Airedale College, moved the second resolution:—

That as public events evidently point to inevitable changes in the ecclesiastical arrangements of the nation, the members of the Establishment being themselves utterly divided in doctrine and sentiment, and being, in the aggregate, only a minority of the people, this meeting considers it the bounden duty of Dissenters to avail themselves of every suitable opportunity to impress upon the Legislature the fact, that no ecclesiastical arrangements, involving the Establishment principle, will be satisfactory to the nation; and that the only equitable principles on this subject are those embodied in the constitution of the Liberation Society.

In the course of his speech he said that he, as a Protestant Dissenter, there publicly and indignantly repudiated every insinuation of disloyalty, come from whose lips it might. (Hear, hear, and applause.) As Protestant Dissenters they yielded to no Churchmen in the land in their affection for their gracious Queen, and in their attachment to the great and glorious principles of the English constitution. He congratulated the meeting on having taken that bold step in defence of what they believed to be great and fundamental principles. A Church Establishment must be defended on one of two grounds—either religious or political. No argument was advanced in favour of either ground. Dr. Fraser maintained that the Establishment could not be defended on either ground, without the advocate

falling into serious dilemmas and difficulties. He replied to the allegation of the Rev. Canon Stowell that the Establishment was a defence of orthodoxy, by pointing to the dangerous heresies espoused by some of the distinguished men in the Church as a refutation of the assertion.

Mr. Alderman BROWN seconded the resolution. He referred to the insulting language that had been used towards the Dissenters by the Churchmen. As to their numbers, the census of chapel and church-going people, taken in 1851, showed that the Church did not hold the pre-eminence her friends claimed for her. He most heartily thanked Mr. Disraeli for his recent speech on the Church. He thought it was the best speech that gentlemen had ever made. It placed us on very strong ground indeed. Mr. Disraeli advocated "no surrender" on political grounds. On these grounds alone, therefore, was the connexion of the Church with the State a necessity—not from any authority derived from the New Testament—not on the principles promulgated by Jesus Christ. Referring to a meeting held at Taunton a short time ago, he said that Archdeacon Denison remarked that if the affairs of the chapels were searched out, it would be found that they were nearly all in a state of bankruptcy. (Laughter.) He was astonished at hearing such a statement. Mr. Brown quoted from a document showing the amount spent by the Wesleyan body in chapel building, and the amount of liabilities, which clearly showed that body, at least, to be in a complete state of solvency. He had no doubt there were gentlemen on the platform who were also prepared to correct the statement of the archdeacon with respect to their denominations also. And besides all the money they spent in building and repairs, it must be remembered that they supported their own ministers, and contributed largely to missionary and other societies. (Applause.) Such a statement as that uttered by Archdeacon Denison was nothing less than a libel. (Hear, hear.) It would be far better for the Churchmen, instead of establishing Defence Societies, to advocate a reform in the Church. He pointed them to the scene which occurred only the other day at Accrington, and he asked if such scenes would endear that Church to the hearts of the people of England? (Hear, hear.) He then alluded to the condition of the poor curates, and said that it would redound more to the credit of the Bishop of London, if he, instead of begging for cast-off wearing apparel for the curates, and at the same time pocketing his 10,000*l.* per annum, would come out and advocate a reform and a new state of things in the Church to which he belonged. (Loud applause.)

The Rev. J. H. RYLAND supported the resolution. He said that many excellent arguments had been used, and he trusted that all who had heard them would ponder over them. At that advanced hour he would not occupy more of their time except to supplement what had been said by a few incontrovertible testimonies of bishops and other eminent persons, as to the unhealthiness and unsoundness of the Church of England, as by law established. Bishop Louth, in his visitation sermon at Durham, in the year 1758, said:—

Constantine embraced the Christian faith: he became the nursing father of the Church. . . . Alas! from the very era of the security, splendour, and prosperity of that Church, we must date the decay of the true spirit of Christianity. It still continued, indeed, to increase for some time outwardly in extent and numbers; but daily suffered within a much greater loss, in the visible diminution of faith, holiness, humility, and charity. Honour, wealth, and power, soon excited pride, avarice, and ambition.

Then there was the Bishop (Bathurst) of Norwich, in a speech in the House of Lords, on March 16th, 1827, confessed "that the clergy were always opposed to, or at least refused to join in, measures for the improvement of the people." And it must be remembered that the time this sentiment was uttered differed much from the present time. Then the Church was ascendant, now it was in danger. There was also the testimony of Archbishop Whately, who said:—

I have been always an open, steady and active advocate for the removal of civil disabilities, founded on differences of religious profession; not from indifference, but from a deliberate conviction that the founder of our religion did not design or permit Christians, or Christians of any particular denomination, to claim or enjoy, as such, a monopoly of civil rights and secular power.

Now he (Mr. Ryland) challenged the Archbishop of Dublin to carry out this to the fullest extent. He now came to Bishop Hobart, of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of New York, who, in 1825, came over to England on behalf of his own church, and after what he saw in England went back with such feelings that he gave utterance to the following words:—

With the union of Church and State commenced the great corruptions of Christianity. And so firmly persuaded am I of the deleterious effects of this union, that, if I must choose the one or the other, I would take the persecution of the State, rather than her favours; her frowns rather than her smiles; her repulses rather than her embraces.

So strong were his objections, that he was the only Protestant prelate who refused, at the bidding of the Government, to preach a funeral sermon on the death of a high dignitary in that land. Mr. Ryland also quoted from Gilbert Wakefield's reply to Bishop Watson's letter in favour of Pitt's Income-tax, as follows:—

In truth, the very worst features of these constitutions is a tendency to *dim and change the pure gold* of such noble characters as (Bishop Watson) this gentleman, to a brassy adulteration of a much lower standard; and they may be compared not unfitly to the *dragon's tail*

in the Apocalypse, which drew with it a third part of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth.

After a quotation from Dante to a similar effect, he concluded by cordially supporting the resolution.

The resolution was then put and carried unanimously with applause.

The Rev. J. R. CAMPBELL, M.A., moved the third resolution:—

That this meeting regrets that the Bill for the Abolition of Church-rates, introduced during the last session by Sir John Troland, and carried by the House of Commons, was rejected by the House of Lords; and it hereby pledges itself to use its utmost efforts, on all future occasions, to secure any measure that shall propose entirely to abolish Church-rates, Easter-dues, and every other ecclesiastical impost now enforced by law.

He gloried in being a political Dissenter. Yet he was a Dissenter from a Church with a political head, a Church which was sustained by political statutes, and which enforced exactions for the maintenance of her worship from the means of Dissenters. We were moved by spiritual interests in the matter. They had been told to separate themselves from the spiritual Dissenters, who were taunted with being leagued with a mixed multitude. He would rather have with him an infidel in the argument who saw that he was lifting up his voice against injustice and wrong than be joined with him in upholding a religion which he does not share, and a creed which he hates, yet is obliged to support. (Loud applause.) After reading the resolution, Mr. Campbell said that he never in his life had paid a Church-rate, and he hoped to die without paying one. Twice his furniture had been seized and sold at the Market-cross for the payment of the rate. He refused to pay it on principle, and he had the matter in his own hands. If the Church could be so unrighteous as to insist upon payment, he could be manly enough to resist it. (Applause.) But there were others of his poorer brethren who could not afford to do so in the same way. With regard to their apparent defeat last session, he could not but think they had been caught napping, and he hoped that it would act as a stimulant on another occasion. They had been challenged by the cry of "no surrender," and he for one accepted that challenge. We ought to go on the principle of no compromise. The question was one of right and truth.

Mr. Councillor POLLARD seconded the resolution.

The Rev. J. P. CHOWN supported it, and it was carried like the preceding ones.

A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the proceedings.

THE CHURCH DEFENCE MOVEMENT.—The following appears as an advertisement in the *Record* on Friday. It will be seen that triple-headed committee virtually adopt Mr. Disraeli's advice by recommending the adoption of petitions "against the abolition of Church-rates:—" "We the undersigned, acting on behalf of the three bodies, viz.:—The Committee of Archdeacons, appointed to watch the proceedings in Parliament relative to Church-rates; the Committee of Laymen; and the Committee of the Church Institutions; having taken counsel together on the present position of the Church-rate question, desire to represent to our brethren, clergy and laity, throughout England and Wales, the duty which is incumbent on every parish and district, to petition both Houses of Parliament, in the ensuing session, against the abolition of Church-rates; and that the petitions to the House of Commons should be placed in the hands of members with as little delay as possible.—W. H. Hale (Archdeacon of London), James Randall (Archdeacon of Berks), for the Committee of Archdeacons; John Manners, M.P., J. C. Colquhoun, Isaac Braithwaite, John M. Knott, Hon. Sec., for the Committee of Laymen; Thomas Bell, John M. Clabon, Henry Hoare, G. Howells Davies, Sec., for the Committee of the Church Institution." Mr. Beresford Hope, M.P., and Sir Arthur Elton have both written to the *Gazette* newspaper declaring opinions adverse to Mr. Disraeli's announced policy on Church-rates.

THE NEW BISHOP OF WORCESTER.—The vacant mitre had been offered to the Rev. Dr. Henry Philpott, Master of St. Catherine's College, the Chaplain to the Prince Consort. No doubts are entertained of his acceptance of the mitre, and it may be now assumed that he is bishop elect. The new bishop is generally considered to belong to what is called the Broad-Church party. He has not, however, written anything from which a clear knowledge of his theological views can be ascertained. It may be stated that Dr. Philpott has been three times vice-chancellor, and is one of the most popular men in the University. According to the act constituting the bishopric of Manchester, he will not be entitled to a seat in the House of Lords until a vacancy arises in a see other than Canterbury, York, London, Durham, or Winchester.

PASTOR CHINIQUEY'S FAREWELL TO ENGLAND.—Pastor Chiniquy embarked on board the Canadian on his return to America on Saturday. He delivered his parting address to a crowded audience at the Concert-hall, Liverpool, on Friday evening. There were present upon the platform ministers of various denominations, and several of the leading laity of the town. The Rev. Canon McNeile presided. M. Chiniquy gave a long and interesting account of the circumstances attending his secession from the Church of Rome in Canada, and vividly described the bless-

ing which had hitherto rested upon his labours in that colony. The Pastor said, in conclusion:—

I am going back, my dear friends, to-morrow, after four months' visit. Oh, what a delicious time. It is not for the money that I have got from you that I am delighted; but for having seen the glorious British people, of whom I have read the history. But to read your history and to see you are two different things. (Cheers.) Although I have not obtained the 5,000*l.* I wanted, I have got 2,600*l.* But with that I will go back and begin the work. (Hear, hear.) If I had had 3,000*l.*, I could begin with more pleasure, for those who know what it is to found a college, to pay the masters, to feed the young men, to provide the books, know that 5,000*l.* is nothing. But I will not go back with a broken heart and tell my countrymen that I have failed. I know that something more will come, and that you will do what God has told you to do in spreading his Gospel abroad, because you are his children. ("Hear, hear," and applause.)

Addresses were subsequently delivered by the Rev. Dr. Lowe, Rev. C. M. Birrell, Rev. Dr. Taylor, Rev. H. Lundie, and Rev. R. C. King, and a resolution expressing congratulations and good wishes to the Pastor was adopted.

Religious Intelligence.

TOWCESTER.—The Rev. Isaac Davies, of Airedale College, has accepted a unanimous invitation from the church and congregation at Towcester, and commenced his labours on Lord's-day, December 9th.

MONKS KIRBY.—Mr. J. W. Moore, late of Bristol College, has accepted the unanimous invitation of the Baptist Church, Monks Kirby, Warwickshire, and entered upon his labours on Lord's-day, December 9th.

PROPOSED WEEK OF SPECIAL PRAYER.—It is expected that the week of special prayer arranged by the Mission Conference at Liverpool, will be observed all over the world. Copies of the invitation have been circulated largely in America, in the different countries in Europe, and at the various missionary stations throughout the world. In addition to the copies in course of being distributed in Great Britain by the Evangelical Alliance, the Central United Prayer-Meeting Committee have undertaken to send a copy to every clergyman and minister in the United Kingdom. It is proposed to set apart for this purpose the week beginning with Lord's-day, January 6.

RELIGION IN ITALY.—On Wednesday evening there was a very numerous gathering of ladies and gentlemen at the College, Regent's-park, to hear statements concerning the progress of Evangelical religion in Italy. Tea and coffee having been served, the company assembled in the spacious drawing-room of the College and filled it to overflowing. In the absence of the Earl of Shaftesbury, on account of the serious illness of his daughter, H. C. Tucker, Esq., occupied the chair. The devotions were conducted by the Rev. F. Tucker. Dr. Angus next explained that the Rev. Wm. Arthur, who was advertised to be one of the speakers, was so unwell as to make it unsafe for him to leave his room. Henry Dunn, Esq., gave a graphic sketch of the origin and character of the religious movements in Italy; and was followed by the Rev. Newman Hall, Dr. M'Crie, Robert Howard, Esq., and Dr. Steane.—*Patriot.*

A REVIVAL IN JAMAICA.—A correspondent of the *Freeman* writes as follows:—"Few, if any, expected such a manifestation of God's power as is now being put forth. The awakening seems to have appeared first in the lowlands of St. Elizabeth's and amongst the Moravians, and then to have spread to Westmoreland, Hanover, Manchester, and was gradually extending itself to St. James and Trelawny. The 'prostrations' are very numerous, and embrace young and old, men and women. The confessions made by these 'stricken' ones reveal a very painful amount of immorality. The restitution of stolen property is not at all uncommon, and not a few of the most abandoned females have burned clothing and destroyed jewellery which had been obtained as the wages of sin. Grog-shops are closed, fiddles, and other instruments of music have all been destroyed, in some districts work has been entirely suspended, and the people have remained day and night in the house of God earnestly imploring mercy for themselves or others. Persons who have long lived together in fornication hasten to be united in marriage, while those who have violated the marriage vow anxiously seek the partners whom they had abandoned. The excitement is such as no one in the island has ever known before, and the missionaries are worn out by incessant labour."

EVANGELISATION OF THE METROPOLIS.—To a part of this work the energies of the "East London Open-air Mission" are being devoted. Since their last whole week's services in the open-air at Mile-end, fourteen stations have been and are occupied when the weather allows. Their great object is that Christ should be preached in every street, court, alley or space in the open air. But until the season again returns, they propose to occupy such rooms, halls, or buildings which they may be able to command, and provide faithful, humble, earnest Christian men to conduct services simultaneously and continuously assisted by ministers of all denominations who preach the Gospel. Their present number of stations (twelve) they are making arrangements to increase as soon as possible. They seek principally for the agency of suitable laymen who will take the Gospel to those who will not go for it. A correspondent informs us that meetings for prayer consisting of brethren only, and compris-

ing Churchmen, Presbyterians and Baptists are being held from ten p.m. to six a.m. Two of the meetings were held at the Euston Rooms, and attended by nearly 500 persons. The time is spent in confession, prayer, oral and silent thanksgiving, and conference. The topic considered at these meetings was "The institution for reading aloud the Word of God in the open-air." The last special night of prayer was in the south of London, at Dunn's Lecture-hall, at which more than 150 met, and more than 60 poured out their hearts at the footstool of Divine mercy for almost all classes and conditions. Our correspondent mentions that while prayer was being offered for fallen women, an unfortunate who had been sitting on the hall-steps was induced to come in. She wept bitter tears on account of her sins. The brethren prayed for her; and some sisters offered her a temporary home till further arrangements could be made. It is proposed that the next meeting shall be held at the Free Church, King Edward-street, Mile-end New Town (Rev. W. Tyler's), on Christmas Eve, 24th December, commencing at ten o'clock. Subject for conference, the "East London Mission Band operations, including vehicles for their use in the open-air services, and reading aloud of the Scriptures," &c. We are requested to state that tickets may be obtained immediately before or after the daily prayer-meeting from one to two, at the schoolroom (Rev. C. Stovel's), Commercial-street, Whitechapel, or of any of the Committee meeting at the Free Church as above, at eight every Friday evening.

THE FLETCHER MEMORIAL SCHOOLS.—On Wednesday evening a numerous attended public meeting was held in the Finsbury Chapel for the purpose of adopting measures to raise a fund of 3,000*l.* for the purpose of establishing some freehold schools in the midst of a densely populated neighbourhood, capable of affording instruction to 500 children, to be called the "Fletcher Memorial Schools." It will be recollected that some months ago an effort was commenced to raise a testimonial of public gratitude and esteem to the Rev. Dr. Fletcher, who had been for more than fifty years the zealous and unwearying friend of the young. He had, however, been taken from his flock, and that which had been intended as a testimonial had now taken the form of a memorial. It was intended to erect day, infant, and Sabbath schools, in a neighbourhood that stood in the greatest need of moral and religious instruction. The committee had been promised subscriptions to the amount of 1,000*l.*, and the object of the present meeting was to endeavour to raise the remaining 2,000*l.* Mr. Samuel Morley occupied the chair. The secretary then read the report, the substance of which is contained in the opening paragraph. The Rev. Mr. Binney moved the first resolution:—

That this meeting, having a very high sense of the long and valuable services rendered by the late Rev. Dr. Fletcher to the young, consider that a public recognition of them is due from the Christian churches.

In doing which he spoke in high terms of the great love the reverend doctor entertained for children, which, as near as possible, resembled the love of our Saviour expressed for them. He concluded by urging those present to use every exertion to raise a memorial like that proposed to the memory of one whose merits had such large claims upon their gratitude. The Rev. Dr. Lorimer seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously. The Rev. Mr. Edmond moved the second resolution:—

That in the opinion of this meeting the erection of day, infant, and Sabbath schools, to be called the "Fletcher Memorial Schools," will be most appropriate to the services it is desired to memorialise, and it pledges itself to renewed and increased exertions in aid of the accomplishment of this desirable object.

The Rev. J. M'Farland seconded the motion, which was carried by acclamation. A cordial vote of thanks having been given to the chairman for presiding over them, a benediction closed the proceedings.

Correspondence.

THE ACCRINGTON EASTER-DUES CASE.

To the Editor of the *Nonconformist*.

SIR,—It appears that one of the police purchased the stolen goods at Accrington of those who refused to pay the Easter-dues. No one can object to the police protecting the wretch of an auctioneer who is mean enough to be the tool of a Church-rate party. But it is too bad that the police, who are paid out of rates to which Nonconformists contribute, should become partisans when they should only be acting as officers of justice—and as partisans, too, when none of the inhabitants can be found dirty enough to buy at a low figure the stolen property of their neighbours. If policemen are to act such a part at such sales Nonconformists will have to refuse paying borough rates. For how can they consent to be taxed in order that those who are supported out of the taxes may thus be made the tools of bigoted Churchmen?

I would recommend the opponents of "Easter-dues" in Accrington at once to hold a public meeting to memorialise the magistrates to dismiss that policeman from the force, and to leave no stone unturned to effect that object.

Mr. Attenborough's case ought not to be lost sight of. That he should be saddled with costs when the churchwardens are adjudged in the wrong seems to civilians a perversion of justice.

Can one-sided Lushington's judgment be taken to any higher court? I shall be glad to contribute my mite towards such a step.

Can we not petition Parliament to institute an inquiry into the case?

Who can doubt that Lushington's object was to deter honest Nonconformists from appealing against Church-rates?

Disraeli—thanks to him!—tells us that this is not the time when Dissenters are to slumber.

Yours truly,
W. GRIFFITH.

Gerard-street, Derby, Dec. 14, 1860.

UNITED PREACHING.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—I cannot remember the precise expression that I used at Nottingham with reference to the Evangelical Alliance and the united preaching movement, though it would be rather humbling, in a literary point of view, to think that it could have been "all but wholly originated." But the facts to which I referred were these:—That, before the subject had ever been mooted elsewhere, to our knowledge, the Committee of the Alliance passed a resolution setting forth the advantages which they believed would result from the two services at Exeter Hall and St. James's Hall being amalgamated, that this resolution was forwarded to the respective committees, and was also adduced at the meeting subsequently held at the London Tavern, as an encouragement to the City Mission in their proposed movement, by showing that the idea of united preaching had already been favourably entertained in other quarters. These facts were expressly stated at the Nottingham Conference as the ground of my remark, and I have no wish to claim any credit for the Alliance beyond what they may justly entitle it to.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

SAMUEL MINTON,

Dec. 12th.

Late Minister of Percy Chapel.

THE WEEK OF UNITED PRAYER AND CHRISTIAN MISSIONS.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Will you permit me through your columns to call the attention of your readers to the following resolution adopted by the Conference on Missions at Liverpool, in March last. The resolution arose out of a letter written by the Rev. E. H. Bickersteth to the *Record* newspaper, proposing a week of special prayer in the year 1861. It was unanimously resolved:—

That the Members of this Conference cordially concur in the proposal made by Mr. Bickersteth, and will rejoice to see the whole Church of God throughout the world, again setting apart a week for special prayer on behalf of missions, in January, 1861; they would prefer, however, that the first week of that month should be chosen for the purpose instead of the second; and they pray that a series of meetings may then be held, far exceeding in their beneficial influence the hallowed meetings of the present year.

They unanimously concur also in the proposal of the Rev. G. Scott, that on the Sabbath-day following that week of prayer, the ministers of all the Churches of Christ in every land, be respectfully requested specially to bring the great subject of Christian Missions before the people of their charge.

As the year 1861 is very close at hand, may I be permitted to urge that these two suggestions be acted upon, either in the first or second week of the coming year?

Yours truly,

A MISSIONARY STUDENT.

Cheshunt, Dec. 15.

BRAINS VERSUS MONEY.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Permit me to thank you for your excellent remarks last week on the Southwark election, and also to unite with you in congratulations to Mr. Layard, on his success in becoming one of the members for that borough. One more of the number of gentlemen who were ostracised on account of their votes on the Chinese question, has had justice done to him, and I hope that ere long all of them will be restored to the same position, and receive the same meed of justice. The constituency have done themselves honour in electing such a man in preference to the local Cæsar with ten thousand a-year.

It is high time that the notion should be thoroughly exploded, that because men have been successful in making money, they therefore possess all wisdom, and are qualified to occupy any of the higher positions in society. It is a most mistaken notion, but it is one which I have observed to prevail mostly in Dissenting circles, and it is lamentable to observe how ready some of the well-to-do class of Dissenting ministers are, to stand at the elbows of such men to puff and praise them. I have often felt grieved at it, and have wished for the honour and dignity of Nonconformity that it would cease.

I do not know how to account for it except on the supposition that these men must have been linendraper's apprentices, or something of that kind, in early life, and the spirit of the shop still clings to them, and they feel impelled to do the very polite and agreeable to well-dressed persons with long purses. The clergy of the Church of England seem to have more self-respect than to do anything of the kind. I would render "honour to whom honour is due," to men in every station, but there is an aristocracy of talent and genius, the members of which for the most part have little of this world's wealth, who yet stand on a much higher vantage-ground than any to which money can raise a man. Wisdom is better than strength, and much better too than money.

I am, yours truly,

AN INDEPENDENT MINISTER.

Derbyshire.

THE RELIGIOUS IMPOSTOR.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—I feel obliged to Mr. Smith, of Hanley, for acquainting his brethren and the public with the real character of Hender-on, alias Leslie, who professes to want ministerial advice. I, too, have had a visit from him, and so have other ministers in this town, during the last two or three years, for he seems to have carried on his frauds with impunity for a length of time. I advised him to return to York and give himself up to justice, as he said he was on the verge of delirium from mental anxiety, and I gave him a small sum of money to help him home. A facetious friend afterwards suggested that I should have offered to do the thing more economically and efficiently by the aid of a policeman. I hope that the next person upon whom he calls will give him into custody.

Yours faithfully,

Dec. 15.

BIRKENHEAD.

Foreign and Colonial.

FRANCE.

NO PASSPORTS FOR ENGLISHMEN IN FRANCE.

The *Moniteur* says:—"The Emperor has decided that from January next, and by way of reciprocity, Englishmen coming to France shall be permitted to enter and travel through the country without passports."

PAMPHLET ON THE SALE OF VENETIA.

A pamphlet, entitled "The Emperor Francis Joseph I. and Europe," has just appeared at Paris, the scope of which is to show that the Emperor of Austria has no choice but to sell Venetia if he would avoid a general war and his own ruin. The author of the pamphlet laments the state of things in Venetia, and says that it is impossible to stop the Italian movement, which aims at its deliverance. The possession of Venetia is the permanent cause of the financial and military weakness of Austria. The treaty of Campo Formio disposed of Venice against law and right. The sacrifice of Lombardy was more injurious to Austria than would be the loss of Venice. The author contends that if Austria were rid of Venetia purely and simply, without any compensation, she would lose nothing, but, on the contrary, would effect a great saving of expense. But by surrendering it to Italy for an indemnity of 500,000,000f. or 600,000,000f. she would derive enormous advantages from the peace which would be consolidated, and from the tranquillisation of the public mind which would be the inevitable consequence. The writer says that the interest of the peace of Europe demands the cession of Venetia by means of compensation, as the only solution of the question, and that Europe would be grateful to the Emperor of Austria for such a solution. The author concludes as follows:—

The purchase of Venice is the sole efficacious, reasonable, and humane solution of the present struggle. We hope when everybody shall have appreciated all the advantages of this compromise an explosion of public feeling will take place. Such a manifestation will compel the Governments to come to an understanding, and the war of Italy will be concluded like that of the Crimea—by the accomplishment of that declaration which is the living expression of modern civilisation—"It is not armies, but public opinion, which gains the last victory."

This feeling will, it is said, be shortly followed by another from the pen of M. de la Guéronnière. The pamphlet has been published entire by the *Perseveranza* of Milan.

The *Moniteur* contains a decree organising the Ministry of the Interior into five departments under Directors-General. The office of Secretary-General to the Ministry is suppressed. The *Moniteur* also contains the appointment of eight prefects and several Councillors of State.

M. de Persigny has come over to England; according to one report on private business, according to another with a mission to the English Government on the subject of diplomatic observations from Lord John Russell, provoked by the Emperor's equivocal conduct with regard to the siege of Gaeta. M. Billault, minister without portfolio, has been appointed Minister of the Interior during his absence.

France has now no fewer than fifteen Ministers. They consist of three varieties—viz., the Ministers with *portefeuille*, or acting Ministers; the Ministers with *porte-voix*, or speaking Ministers; and the Ministers with neither *portefeuille* nor *porte-voix*, and who are known as the *far-niente* Ministers. The three are MM. Morny, Troplong (who has just got a seat in the Cabinet as President of the Senate), and Vaillant (as head of the Household).

A letter from Paris gives a striking proof of M. Persigny's good faith:—

M. de Kersaint, one of the deputies who represented in the Legislative Corps the department of the Puy de Dome, died some short time since. The person who aspired to replace him is M. Chatelus, who, besides his own merits, enjoys the distinction, enviable or unenviable, as the case may be, of being the intimate friend of M. de Morny, and with such patronage—which, as is boastfully declared, pulverises all other—the aspirant to M. de Kersaint's vacant seat could not entertain a single doubt of success. It was necessary to apply, but, as was thought, only as a simple matter of form, for the sanction of the Minister of the Interior to bring forward M. Chatelus as the candidate of the Government, or, to use the official *argot*, *le candidat de l'Administration*. As little difficulty was anticipated in this quarter as ever was found with his predecessor. To the astonishment and disgust of the introducer of M. Chatelus, M. de Persigny is said to have unhesitatingly and firmly refused his sanction to M. de Morny's candidate being put forward as that of the Administration. He doubtless gave his reasons for that refusal, and those reasons were so conclusive that he declared (so the story runs) that, rather than sanction a thing of the kind he would resign. M. Chatelus will, therefore, have to stand on his own merits and those of M. de Morny.

The Empress arrived at Paris at half-past five on Wednesday evening, accompanied by the Emperor, who went as far as Amiens to meet her.

The opening of the session of the French Legislative Body is, it is said, fixed for the 15th February.

There is much talk of the probability of a new loan of 750 millions, the pretext for which will be the loss occasioned to the revenue by the treaty of commerce.

M. Emile Ollivier, the deputy for Paris, has lodged an application for leave to start a new weekly paper,

to be called either *La Liberté*, *Le Suffrage Universel*, or *L'Electeur*. He has not yet received any answer.

There are now no less than six vacant sees in France. The Emperor does not fill them up because he knows the Pope would not confirm his appointments. This state of things cannot last much longer. The Emperor must either reconcile himself with the Pope or become a new Henry VIII.

ITALY.

A TRUCE AT GAETA.—CHANGE IN THE POLICY OF FRANCE.

The special correspondent of the *Daily News* writes as follows from Mola di Gaeta under date Dec. 10th:—

Mars it appears is going to retire within his tent, and leave to crafty diplomacy the final settlement of the southern Italian question. I had scarcely posted my letter of Saturday when I was informed that a French man-of-war had arrived with important despatches for Admiral Barbier de Tinan. I hastened to Cialdini's head-quarters, where I heard that a truce of fifteen days had been negotiated by the Emperor Napoleon, and that in all probability the French steamer referred to was the bearer of the official intimation of the French Cabinet. It seems that it is especially due to the influence of the English government, that Louis Napoleon was induced to change his line of policy towards Francis II. The truce proposed to the two contending armies, and already accepted by the Sardinian government, has been proposed by France, in order that Francis II. should have time to consider his case, which is tantamount to a timely recommendation that he should give up the idea of resistance. At the expiration of fifteen days, if the besieged King persists in the defence, he is told by the Emperor that the French fleet will leave Gaeta, and abandon him to his fate. These, I am told, are the very words of the imperial ultimatum. Francis II. will be greatly surprised, for, till the other day, he firmly believed that France would never allow Admiral Persano to bombard the place. The Sphinx of our times having suddenly changed his mind, I do not see how his once Sicilian Majesty can persist in keeping up the struggle. I am, therefore, inclined to think that before the expiration of the truce the son of Ferdinand II. will have left the last den of Bourbonic tyranny, and have set his foot on the land of exile.

A despatch from Naples of the 14th confirms this report. For the last three days hostilities against Gaeta have been suspended. It is hoped that an early success will attend the efforts of diplomacy to arrive at a peaceable arrangement.

Another report says that Victor Emmanuel only contests the condition which entitles Francis II. to send a representative to plead his cause at a future congress.

A letter from Mola di Gaeta of the 4th describes the effect of Cavalli's new rifled gun:—

The result was more successful than could have been expected, for in less than four hours a strong battery the enemy had at the top of the Monte Orlando was quite disabled by the effect of Cavalli's conical shot. The besieged army had not expected the sudden attack of the Piedmontese, for on the bursting of the first shell—six mortars were at the same time bombarding Gaeta from the isthmus—both troops and citizens ran through the streets like mad people, screaming and howling in the most awful manner. The terror was so great that it was thought necessary to offer shelter to the panic-struck population under the casements of the ramparts. If such has been the effect of the first trial, what will happen when Cialdini opens fire with 120 pieces.

The Naples journals assert that the Abruzzi and Calabria are quiet, and that the revolutionary movement in the province of Avellino had been partially suppressed. The same journals also state that the Lieutenantcy at Naples is engaged in arming the National Guards, who are to be despatched to Upper Italy. The Naples journals highly approve the project of the Minister, Minghetti, which aims at administrative decentralisation.

The Lieutenantcy Council of Sicily has officially demanded the maintenance of distinct laws for Sicily until the assembling of the Italian Parliament.

Fresh reinforcements of Sardinian troops are expected at Naples.

The steamer *Dora*, having on board 750 Garibaldians, has been lost near Terracina. The Garibaldians are supposed to have been saved.

General Dunne, on whose life an attack was lately made, is still alive.

The British Legion is now engaged in hunting down banditti in the neighbourhood of Salerno, and two days since brought in about 20. Thus they are rendering good service. They are to be disbanded and sent home. The whole of the claims on Garibaldi, on account of this Legion, have been met by the Sardinian Government.

The Hungarian, and the Hungarian Brigade alone, remains in the service of Piedmont, not incorporated with the regular troops, but forming a separate division. An exception is made in their case as being deserters from the Austrian service. No other foreign troops are by law permitted in time of peace. The brigade consists of about 1,000 fine fellows, and of various nationalities. General Klapka has the command. Colonel Telaki, in his absence, commands the Brigade, which will be quartered the while at Nola. Those who choose to leave for their homes are at liberty to do so, and will receive six months' pay; but Kossuth has written and promised six months' pay to those who remain. Only two officers have given in their resignation, but with the intention of rejoining in the spring.

Our "great and social evil" (says a letter from Naples) is at present the Garibaldini—

They have become an evil because they are a large, inactive, unrecognised body, irritated by neglect. It is in no way, therefore, disrespectful to them that I look upon it, under the circumstances, as a cause of congratulation that they are being sent off daily in large detachments. Yesterday the Mola and the neighbourhood of the castle were crowded with these men on their road to the arsenal to be shipped off. Three months ago only I saw them enter Naples by the same route! What a change in the outward and moral aspect of the scene! Then how brilliant and how joyous, how fêted and bebugged; and now how dejected, neglected, and unobserved—the majority of them dirty, many rubbing themselves in a very suspicious way, a habit into which even the English have of necessity fallen, and, some looking half-famished, it was difficult to recognise in them the remains of the victorious army of Garibaldi. It created a sensation of melancholy to look on them, and still more so to regard them as being sent out of the country like so many bad coinage no longer in circulation. Others will leave in the same way, and in the course of a fortnight we shall be clear of a positive embarrassment, but Italy will have acquired the "nihil," I fear, of so many circles of discontent.

The decree of the Marquis di Pepoli, suppressing all the religious orders, makes an exception in favour of some orders which have deserved well of the country. The same decree entrusts the government with the charge of the religious treasury. The convents of Umbria have been closed, with the exception of several establishments to be converted into hospitals and schools. Pensions are granted to the members of the religious orders which have been suppressed. Rentes to the amount of 100,000 lire are assigned in favour of some charitable institutions of Umbria; the surplus remaining in the religious treasury will be applied to religious works and public instruction.

Sixteen bishops of the Marches, five of whom are Cardinals, have protested against the presence and the measures of the Sardinian Commissary in those provinces.

The Minister of Finance in South Italy has obtained permission to contract a loan of twenty-five millions for commencing public works.

The number of Neapolitans who enrolled themselves under Garibaldi was under 100, and yet they talk of "our revolution."

In the new Italian Parliament the actual population of Italy, amounting to 17,954,166, will be represented by 357 deputies, of whom 138 will be returned by Southern Italy, exclusive of Sicily.

THE ROMAN STATES.

Colonel Masi has evacuated Orvieto, which, it is said, will be occupied by the French. The enlistments for the new Papal army are being actively carried on.

Half the Neapolitan army who had taken refuge in Roman territory have quitted the country. Most of them joined the insurrectionary bands in the Abruzzi. Many of their officers have joined the army of King Victor Emmanuel.

The province of Viterbo continues in a state of insurrection. It is asserted that the French are preparing to evacuate the province.

A letter from Rome says that the recruiting for the army is still going on, not rapidly but steadily, foreigners being preferred to Romans, and the intention being to raise the armed force to 12,000 or 15,000 men, instead of the 5,000 recommended by General Lamoricière.

It is said that 2,000 Pontifical troops are about to march against the town of Ponte-Corvo, to overthrow the provisional Government established there in the name of King Victor Emmanuel.

Rome has always been noted for its mendicants, but just now they muster in strength for which a parallel is hardly to be remembered, even by very old residents. The streets are full of them; the hotel doors are besieged by them; at every few paces you are importuned. Diseases and deformities, real and simulated, are exhibited before you in disgusting proximity and profusion. Pursuing its usual system, the Papal Government trusts to the charity of the faithful, and takes no measures to relieve or lessen this mass of mendicancy.—*Letter from Rome.*

The *Giornale di Roma* contains a pastoral addressed to his flock by the Cardinal Archbishop of Perugia, on the occasion of the festival of the Immaculate Conception, in which he warns them to be on their guard against the insidious wiles of Satan, who is just now doing his utmost to turn them from their holy faith, the which is proved, he says, by the large number of false Bibles now distributing among them, offered as a gift or for a trifle, by unknown hands. Impious almanacks and little books, and shameless writings, he says, are also being spread in the towns and country places, attacking the sacrament of confession, the Divine authority of the Church, the inviolable dignity of its chief, &c. Against these devices of the devil, the best safeguard and weapon, according to the Cardinal Archbishop Pecci, is constant recourse to the rosary.

AUSTRIA.

The *Wiener Zeitung* of December 15 contains four Imperial autograph letters, dated the 13th inst. The first relieves Count Goluchowski of his functions as Minister of the Interior. The second appoints Baron Schmerling Minister of the Interior. The third nominates Herr von Plener Minister of Finances. The fourth confers the grand cross of the order of St. Stephen on Counts Rechberg and Goluchowski.

Some inhabitants of Pesth had resolved on submitting an address to the Chancellor, which had also been communicated to the other comitats for their

acceptance. This address contains the following points:—1. The convocation of the Hungarian Diet at the earliest possible period, on the basis of the electoral law of 1848. 2. The promulgation of the press law of 1848. 3. The collection of taxes due to be suspended until the assembling of the Diet. 4. No judges but those elected by the people to hold office in the different comitats. The address also contains an urgent request that the enlistment of soldiers and the tobacco monopoly may be suspended until the decision of the Diet has been taken on these questions.

It is asserted that the Chancellor of Hungary has resolved upon replying negatively to the demands of the Comitat of Pesth, on account of the proceedings connected with the address having transgressed constitutional limits.

The *Press* says:—"The attitude of the newly-constituted comitats proves that the majority of them have rejected the programme of Baron Vay and Count Szechen. The Ministry have already put themselves in communication with Baron Eötvös and M. Deak, with a view to their entering the Ministry."

The Obergesspann of Arad has convoked a general assembly of the Arad Comitat for the 28th December, on the basis of the law of 1848, for the purpose of completing the election of members to the committee, and of electing the officers of the comitat. The parishes are to elect one representative for every thousand inhabitants, and are to be responsible for the maintenance of peace and order.

The *Wanderer* publishes telegrams from Zara, dated the 16th and 17th inst., according to which strong and universal agitation prevailed in that city, and in the provincial towns of Dalmatia, against the administrative incorporation of Dalmatia with Croatia without that project being first submitted for the approval of the Dalmatian Diet.

The Vienna journals announce that a Servian deputation, headed by the Patriarch Rajacic, will shortly arrive in Vienna, in order to lay before the Emperor personally the wishes of his Servian subjects.

M. Richter has been found guilty of the charge of having induced a public functionary to abuse his official power by corrupting General Eynatten. He was acquitted for want of proof on the charge referring to the bills of exchange, and was declared not guilty on all the other charges. The attorney for the Government recommended him to the favourable consideration of the court. He is to be imprisoned for a month.

GERMANY.

Lords Bloomfield and Loftus, English Ambassadors at Vienna and Berlin, have been summoned to London on account of deliberations on the question of Venetia.

From Berlin we learn that the endeavours of the Austrian Government to persuade the second-rate German States to enter into binding engagements in respect to Venetia have completely failed.

SPAIN.

The budget of expenses has been voted. The *Leon Espana* announces that General Narvaez has retired altogether into private life. Disastrous inundations have taken place in Granada. Several buildings were overwhelmed at Santa Fé. The Badajoz Asylum was swept away, and many children were killed and injured.

The *Espana* says:—"The chiefs of the Moderados have deliberated on their future course of conduct. Senor Gonzalez Bravo stated the necessity for the party to coalesce, either with the absolutist or revolutionary party, and, when the proposition was discussed, expressed his intention of joining the revolutionary party."

THE PRINCIPALITIES.

The *Ost Deutsche Post*, in a leading article, says:—"The accumulation of arms and ammunition in Moldavia and Wallachia, and the organisation of foreign legions in Italy, are to be attributed to an extensive scheme, which partly aims at the separation of these provinces from the Porte, and partly at a rising of several other nationalities. Not only a Hungarian, but a Polish legion, has been organised. In view of this state of things Russia has despatched a threatening declaration to Prince Couza, and has concentrated 12,000 men in Bessarabia."

TURKEY.

An angry discussion has taken place between the Porte and the Sardinian Minister, on account of some Sardinian vessels having left for the Danube with munitions of war, supposed to be destined for Hungary or Servia. Three of the vessels were stopped by order at Sulina, and two have proceeded. A commission of inquiry has been named for Bosnia and the Herzegovina.

New commercial treaties are being negotiated between the Porte and England, and the Porte and France.

By the advice of the English and French Ambassadors, a Roumelian commission of investigation has been appointed under the presidency of Ismail Pasha of the Danube.

General Klapka is at Constantinople.

News of further defeats of the Russians has been received from Circassia. The mountaineers were commanded by Ismail Pasha and Mehemet Bey.

The question of the occupation of Syria was still being discussed. The Porte appears likely to consent to the occupation being prolonged.

Letters from Montenegro report the serious illness of the Prince. Russian pro-Slavist propagandism is

being actively prosecuted throughout the provinces. The question of the new loan is still undecided. Exchange steady.

AMERICA.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The Africa, which arrived at Queenstown on Sunday evening, brought the New York journals, containing in full the President's Message at the opening of Congress, and which extends over nine columns. It was delivered at Washington on the 4th.

The first topic discussed is the revolutionary crisis. Mr. Buchanan asks why, while the country is eminently prosperous in all its material interests, the Union, the source of all these blessings, is threatened with destruction.

The long-continued and intemperate interference of the Northern people with the question of slavery in the Southern States has at length produced its natural effects. The different sections of the Union are now arrayed against each other, and the time has arrived—so much dreaded by the father of his country—when hostile geographical parties have been formed. I have long foreseen, and often forewarned my countrymen of, the now impending danger. The incessant and violent agitation of the slavery question throughout the North during the last quarter of a century has at length produced its malign influence on the slaves, and inspired them with vague notions of freedom. Hence, a sense of security no longer exists around the family altar. This feeling of peace at home has given place to apprehensions of servile insurrections. Many a matron throughout the South retires at night in dread of what may befall herself and her children before the morning. Should this apprehension of domestic danger, whether real or imaginary, extend and intensify itself until it shall pervade the masses of the Southern people, then disunion will become inevitable. How easy would it be for the American people to settle the slavery question for ever, and restore peace and harmony to this distressed country. They, and they only, can do it. All that is necessary to accomplish the object, and all for which the Slave States ever contended, is to be let alone and permitted to manage their domestic institutions in their own way. As sovereign States, they, and they only, are responsible before God and the world for the slavery existing among them. For this the people of the North are no more responsible, and have no more right to interfere, than with similar institutions in Russia or in Brazil. Upon their good sense and patriotic forbearance I confess I still greatly rely. Without their aid it is beyond the power of any President, no matter what may be his own political views, to restore peace and harmony among them. Wisely limited and restrained as to his power under our constitution and laws, he alone can accomplish but little for good or for evil on such a momentous question; and this brings me to observe that the election of any one of our fellow-citizens to the office of President does not of itself afford just cause for dissolving the Union. The election of a President of the United States, in a constitutional manner, cannot, of itself, justify secession or revolution. The constitution does not contemplate the act of separation or disunion, and therefore there can be no legal and constitutional secession of any State from the Union. The personal liberty acts of several Northern States are in direct conflict with the constitution of the United States, and ought to be repealed. If continued upon the statute books of the Northern States, after the public attention has been directed to the subject, the injured States will be justified in revolution. The President has no power except to see that the laws are executed, and for this purpose certain facilities are given him. He cannot maintain the judiciary in a State like South Carolina, where federal officers reign. But he has power over the collections of customs, and over the public property of the United States, located within the several States, and to protect these the government forces will act strictly on the defensive. Congress possesses no power to make war upon a State to compel such state to remain in the Union, and if force could be used for such purpose a continuance of the government in its spirit and unity could not thus be maintained. To restore tranquillity, and furnish to all the States a guarantee for the enjoyment of their rights, as contemplated under our system, certain amendments to the federal constitution are necessary, and may be proposed by Congress, and ratified by the States, or through the medium of a convention called on the application of the States.

[The proposed amendments are given in a leading article.]

The relations with all Foreign Powers, excepting Spain, are declared to be amicable and satisfactory. Some suggestions are made in reference to the purchase of Cuba.

As the disputed title to the island of San Juan is under negotiation with Great Britain, it is not deemed advisable to make any allusion to the subject.

The President regards the visit of the Prince of Wales as a most auspicious event, and says that its consequences cannot fail to increase the kindred and kindly feeling which he trusts may ever actuate the Governments and people of both countries.

The financial condition is briefly discussed, and considerable reductions are shown in the annual expenditure.

The message concludes with lengthy remarks about the necessity for modifications in the tariff to meet deficiencies of revenue.

After the reading of the President's message the following amendment was moved and carried:—

That so much of the message as related to the perilous condition of the country be referred to a select committee, composed of one member from each State.

The message is condemned by those of extreme opinions from both North and South.

In Charleston the pacific tone of the President's message caused considerable surprise.

Official despatches from Mexico state that the Liberals had been successful in several engagements.

Miramón was still at Mexico in command of 9,000 men. He intended to attempt the defence of the city against the Liberals, who were rapidly advancing. The report that the British Consulate had been robbed of a million dollars is confirmed.

INDIA.

The most painful piece of intelligence which the mail furnishes is a mutiny in the 5th Bengal Europeans.

Sir Hugh Rose had expressed his intention to go to Dinapore and inspect the regiment, and it would seem as if some fresh mutinous symptoms were manifested on parade, for a telegram from Calcutta informs us that on the morning of the 12th ult. one soldier of the 5th was shot, and the regiment itself disbanded.

CHINA.

CONCLUSION OF PEACE.

The following despatch was received on Saturday afternoon just as the Cabinet was on the point of separating:—

“Foreign-office, Dec. 15.

“Intelligence has been received at the Foreign-office this afternoon, through St. Petersburg, from Peking, up to the 9th of November, stating that peace was concluded on the 26th of October, and the ratifications exchanged.

“On the 5th of November the allied forces evacuated Peking, and the Emperor was expected immediately to return to his capital.”

This intelligence was communicated by the Russian Government to Sir John Crampton at St. Petersburg, and by him transmitted to the Foreign-office.

The overland mail arrived on Friday with details from the scene of operations in the north of China, to Oct. 13. The telegraph had already announced that Peking fell without a blow having been struck in its defence, and the allied flags waved from the walls of the imperial capital. The following are detailed accounts of these most stirring and important events, extracted from the *China Mail*, the *North China Herald*, and from the letters of correspondents at the seat of war:—

On October 3rd the allied army commenced its advance on Peking. On the 6th an earthwork near Peking was taken. On the same day the summer palace of the Emperor was taken and completely looted, affording immense spoil. The chief share of the plunder appears to have fallen to the French. A quantity of the treasure which was taken is to be divided between both French and English. Some privateers are said to have sold their shares for about 30,000*l*. The entire British share, including both treasure and private loot, is estimated at about 90,000*l*. On the 12th everything was prepared for the assault on the occupation of Peking. The siege guns and the other artillery were in a position to bombard the town unless it should be surrendered by noon on the 13th. A general order was issued by Sir Hope Grant for the disposition and control of the forces under his command. The whole of the troops were to be furnished on the 10th instant with two days' cooked rations. In the event of an attack upon Peking being decided on, the following directions were to be observed:—

As soon as the officer commanding the Royal Engineers reports that a practicable breach has been effected in the city wall, it will be stormed by the 2nd Division. The wall being gained, the storming party will turn to the right, keeping along the ramparts, and seize the Anting Gate. This post being gained, the Engineers and Sappers, who should follow the supporting column, will proceed at once to open the gate below. This post will then be placed in a state of defence with the least possible delay, and be held by a garrison of such strength as may be necessary. Officers and soldiers are forbidden, under any pretext whatever, to quit the gate or ramparts, or enter any streets or house. All property collected by officers on this occasion to be sold for the just benefit of all ranks. The Commander-in-Chief informs the army that he has taken upon himself a serious responsibility in appropriating to their benefit the treasury which was found in the Emperor's palace, and which, by right, belongs to the crown.

Just immediately before the period given for surrender would expire, Hang Ki (late Hoppo of Canton), came out and said that our demands were acceded to, no resistance would be made, and the gate was at our disposal. Thereon the outer and inner gates were immediately taken possession of, and a portion of the allied force was quartered on the wall of Peking.

The Earl of Elgin and Baron Gros were at the military head-quarters, but, as Mr. Bruce had been sent for, it was possible that his lordship did not intend to spend the winter in the north.

It was said to be the intention of the commander-in-chief to withdraw from Peking, and make Tientsin his winter quarters. Lady Grant has left Hongkong to join him.

Count Ignatiev, the Russian Minister, followed the Allies to Tientsin, where we believe he is still. Mr. Ward, the American Minister, came down here, the other day, on his way home.

The commissariat, even in its most trifling details, is unexceptionable. The general health of the troops has been excellent.

The Tartar army was still in the field. The Emperor is reported to have gone to his palace, Zehol, in Tartary, where Lord Macartney was received. He had thirteen wives with him. Letters were found in the palace from San-ko-lin-sin to the

Emperor, assuring him of his confidence in being able to annihilate us. The garrison of Peking is reported to be 60,000 to 70,000.

The pressure of the people is said to have had great weight in inducing the authorities to yield. The generals and staff, with the Punjaubees and 67th Regiment, entered the outer and inner gates of Peking, and ascended to the ramparts, and took possession of the gates and a number of brass guns, and mounted their own guns in their place. The English and French flags were then hoisted in token of our military occupation. The wall is sixty feet wide, and paved, and the troops inside have their tents pitched on it. The only thing the Chinese asked was that the Chinese coolies should not be allowed to enter the city. This was conceded. The Emperor's summer palace was only occupied by 300 eunuchs, and 30 or 40 men in charge of the gardens. They made a slight show of resistance, when two were killed, and two French officers were wounded. The next day the palace was given up to indiscriminate loot, after the French had made first selection.

The Hongkong Overland Register of October 29th states that Captain Anderson and Mr. De Normann died from the effects of the brutal treatment of their Tartar captors. A sergeant of the Sikh Cavalry has deposed that all the prisoners were most inhumanly used, having their wrists bound with cords, and an insufficient quantity of food supplied them. No information has been obtained about Captain Brabazon and Mr. Bowlby, the *Times'* special correspondent.

A letter from the camp says that Messrs. Parkes and Loch, whilst with San-ko-lin-sin's army, were forced to kneel before every mandarin, however petty, their faces rubbed in the dust; they were bound with their hands behind them, and carried on horses to Tungchow, and thence, in the same state, in one of the carts of the country, to Peking, where they were placed in a dungeon, and remained for some time. Mr. Parkes was beaten when he did not instantly reply to a question, and Mr. Loch because he could not speak Chinese. It appears that when the party was returning from Tungchow, where Mr. Parkes went to remonstrate against the Tartars encamping on the ground appropriated to the British army, they arrived at Chang-kia-wan, where the battle of the 18th was fought, and seeing preparations for an attack, they consulted together whether to charge through them, or to apply to San-ko-lin-sin, who was a short distance behind, for a pass. They resolved on the latter course. He received them with insult and abuse, and made prisoners of them. They do not know where the rest of the captives are, but suppose them to be with San-ko-lin-sin's army, whether in or out of Peking is not known.

The *North China Herald* gives the following details of the sacking of the Emperor's summer palace:—

The Summer Palace is about five miles by a circuitous road north-west of this camp, outside the earthwork. A description of it is given in Stanton's account of Lord Macartney's embassy, and other works on China, but no pen can describe correctly the scene that has taken place there within the last two days. Indiscriminate loot has been allowed. The public reception hall, the state and private bedrooms, ante-rooms, boudoirs, and every other apartment had been ransacked; articles of vertu, of native and foreign workmanship, taken, or broken if too large to be carried away, ornamental lattice work, screens, jade stone ornaments, jars, clocks, watches, and other pieces of mechanism, curtains and furniture—none have escaped from destruction. There were extensive wardrobes of every article of dress; coats richly embroidered in silk and gold thread, in the Imperial Dragon pattern; boots, head-dresses, fans, &c., in fact, rooms all but filled with them. Store rooms of manufactured silk in rolls, such as may be bought in Canton at 20*l*. to 30*l*. per piece. By a calculation made in the rooms, there must have been 70,000 or 80,000 pieces. Hundreds were thrown down and trampled on, and the floor covered thickly with them, men were throwing them at each other, and all taking as many as they could carry. They were used instead of rope to secure the loading of carts filled with them. Throughout the French camp were hundreds of pieces, some heaped up, others used to make tents or beds and cover-lids.

In the afternoon of yesterday, a party of French went through the apartments with sticks, breaking everything that remained—mirrors, screens, panels, &c. It is said that they did so in revenge for the barbarous treatment the released prisoners, their countrymen, had received. A treasury containing a large quantity of gold ingots and sycee silver is under charge of a guard, and is to be divided between the English and French. The total value of property destroyed would amount to a large instalment of the indemnity claimed.

In one of the ante-rooms of the state bed-room at the Summer Palace, the treaty of Tientsin in English and Chinese, signed by Lord Elgin, was found. It had been thrown on the ground by some one, and lay in the heap of broken articles, till the English paper evidently attracted the eye of the person who discovered it.

A general order from the British Commander-in-Chief desired that all articles taken by officers and men were to be sent in for sale by public auction for the benefit of the army, which was done. All were permitted to have the articles they had brought away for themselves valued, and have the option of taking or rejecting them. Many beautiful curios and souvenirs were thus obtained at a nominal price. The sale realised 32,000*l*. dollars, which, with the value of the treasure, estimated at 61,000*l*. dollars, is to be divided as prize money on the spot.

Much dissatisfaction has been expressed at the decision of the Commander-in-Chief that only those of the troops who marched from the last halting-place on the 6th are to participate in the prize money, all the rest, those at the depot at Tungchow and elsewhere, being excluded.

The Commander-in-Chief and general officers have waived their right to share. A gold jug of great value was presented to the Commander-in-Chief by the army.

Nearly all the articles were sold at very high prices, large enamelled and inlaid vases and ornaments realising full Shanghai prices for such articles, the fact of their having been the property of Hien Fung adding an imaginary value to everything. The scene where the sale was held, in the temple Lamasiri, occupied by headquarters, was worthy of the pencil of an artist. Had his Imperial Majesty handed over the whole of the contents of that palace, uninjured, it would have sold for an enormous amount, more than three-fourths having been destroyed or taken by the French.

All round the vicinity of the palace are large enclosures, parks, or cemeteries, with trees of some magnitude; and many stone bridges over nullahs, the country being very dry at present. Branching off from the palace are several paved roads, and just outside of it is the French camp, by the side of two large lotus ponds. It is reported that they are to leave that place to-day, and take up a position on our left. They wish to take the west gate of the city, which is the only one open, but it is objected to, as the Emperor's brother, the Prince Hung, would not be able to enter the city, should he be induced to return from the country to which, it is said, he has fled. We propose to take one of the gates on the north side near to this camp, and shall do so as soon as the siege guns, which have been ordered up, arrive. I have not learnt what is then to be done. It is supposed the army will not enter Peking in any case, but that the officers will be allowed to do so with a pass.

Another letter says:—

Some idea of the quantity of silk may be given by the fact that fowls, old pots, &c., were wrapped in the most costly silks and satins. All the ladies had disappeared, but their little Japanese dogs, something resembling a King Charles spaniel, were running about in a distracted state. Mr. Wade secured some valuable books and papers, some we believe for the British Museum. The Emperor had left the day before, but his destination is, I believe, unknown.

Writing on the 13th of Oct., the *Daily News* correspondent says:—

The sale of articles taken from the summer palace for the prize commission terminated this morning, 8,000*l*. was realised;—a large sum considering the small number of articles sold. The fur coats, embroidery, jade stone ornaments, and Chinese copper enamel brought very high prices. The whole sum to be divided is insignificant, being somewhere about 30,000*l*. The weather continues fine, but the mornings are getting very cold. The view of the mountains to the north-west of Peking is very beautiful, especially in the evening when the sun sets behind them, and shows the outline in strong relief against the glowing sky.

OFFICIAL DESPATCHES.

A variety of despatches and enclosures, were received at the Foreign-office on Saturday from the Earl of Elgin, her Majesty's Envoy in China. Lord Elgin, in these despatches, details the steps taken in conjunction with the commanders of the allied forces to obtain the restoration of the persons captured by the Chinese soldiery, and the successful result of the measures which were adopted. There are a number of letters from the commissioners appointed to treat, in which they endeavour to evade compliance with the conditions laid down. On the 23rd of September, a brother of the Emperor, by name Kung, was appointed to treat with the allies in the room of others who had been superseded. The answer to this intimation was that, unless all British and French subjects illegally detained in captivity were at once set at liberty Peking would be assaulted. To this a reply was given by Prince Kung that the persons in question had been captured in war, and would only be returned after the fleets had left Taku. Up to the 5th of October correspondence was carried on between the commissioners and the allies, and by that time the Commander-in-Chief had received all the necessary supplies and munitions of war for the advance upon Peking. The Chinese had required that the allied army should fall back, and that some neutral spot should be chosen where commissioners would meet to discuss the terms of the treaty. On the other hand, Lord Elgin insisted not only on the return of the British and French subjects, but also, as a security against further treachery, that one of the gates of the capital should be occupied by an escort detached from both armies. On the 8th of October Consul Parkes, Mr. Loch (the private secretary of Lord Elgin) a trooper of Probyn's Horse, M. de Lautiere, and four private soldiers returned. Lord Elgin writes:—

Camp before Peking, October 9, 1860.

My Lord,—I have much satisfaction in informing your lordship that the anticipations in which I ventured to indulge at the close of my despatch, No. 57, of yesterday's date, have been realised, and that the English and French prisoners detained in Peking, numbering eight in all, were sent to this camp in the afternoon. The subjects of her Majesty thus restored are, Mr. Parkes, my private secretary (Mr. Loch), and a trooper of Probyn's Horse; the French subjects are, M. l'Escayrac de Lanture, who is at the head of a scientific mission, and four soldiers.

To no one of their numerous friends is the return of these gentlemen a matter of more heartfelt gratification than it is to me. Since the period of their arrest, I have been compelled, by a sense of duty, to turn a deaf ear to every overture for their restoration which has involved the slightest retrograde movement of our army, or the abandonment of any demands previously preferred by me against the Chinese Government. I have felt that any such concession on my part would have established a most fatal precedent, because it would have led the Chinese to suppose that by kidnapping Englishmen they might effect objects which they are unable to achieve by fair fighting or diplomacy. I confess that I have been, moreover, throughout, of opinion, that in adopting this uncompromising tone, and boldly setting the national above the personal interest, I was in point of fact best consulting the welfare of our friends who were in duress; but it was not to be expected that all persons would view in the same light a question of policy so obscure; and, apart from the warm personal interest which I feel in their safety, your lordship can well understand that it relieves me from a

great load of anxiety to learn from the result that the course which I have followed was not ill-calculated to promote it.

The account which they give of what they have gone through since their capture on the 18th ult. is most interesting. I have requested each of them to put down his recollections on paper, as I can submit them to your lordship most accurately in this form. A copy of Mr. Loch's narrative I enclose herewith, but Mr. Parkes has been so much engaged on public duty to-day that he has not been able to complete his. Enough has already transpired to convince me that these gentlemen have exhibited, under circumstances of great trial, constancy and courage of the highest order—an example nobly followed by the fine old Sikh trooper who was in attendance upon them.

The Chinese officials treated them at first with much brutality, obviously with the intention of working on their fears, and through their fears influencing in some degree the counsels of the ambassadors. When this plan failed, they resorted to gentle methods and endeavoured to establish a claim on their gratitude. Such was the conduct of persons whose demeanour towards them was prescribed by authority. It is, however, remarkable that they experienced much kindness and respect throughout from prisoners, and some others of the humble classes, with whom they came in contact.

It is a matter of great concern to me that we know as yet nothing certain respecting the fate of Mr. Bruce's attaché, M. de Normann, Mr. Bowlby, the special correspondent of the *Times*, and the nineteen troopers, consisting of eighteen Sikhs and one dragoon, who formed the escort, and were under the command of Lieutenant Anderson, of Fane's Irregular Horse. This portion of the party became separated from Messrs. Parkes and Loch, when the latter, at the commencement of the conflict of the 18th ult., was taken up to Sankolinsin, for the ostensible object of obtaining a safe conduct for him. Since that time we have heard nothing authentic about them, but we are assured that though they are not now in Pekin, they soon be restored to us.

I take this opportunity of mentioning that several valuable papers have been found in the Emperor's summer palace, Yuen-Ming-Yuen, which has been seized by the French. Some are in the Emperor's holograph. The most important, so far as a hurried examination enables us to decide, are some memorials discovered by Mr. Morrison. In one of these, Sankolinsin ascribes the loss of the Taku forts to the explosion of a magazine, and strongly urges the Emperor to withdraw from the capital—a proposal strenuously resisted by other memorialists. Many of the papers show a determination to resist the barbarians even after the fall of the Taku. Great exertions have been made, and it was supposed, with the reinforcements expected, the force available for the defence of the capital would amount to 300,000 men. The allies are put at 10,000. I hope by the next mail to be able to furnish translations of these very interesting documents.—I have, &c.,

(Signed)

ELGIN AND KINGARDINE.

The Lord John Russell, &c.

In a subsequent despatch the Earl of Elgin reports the return of nine other prisoners to the camp—eight troopers of Fane's Irregular Horse and one French soldier. All were suffering more or less severely from the effects of the ligatures with which their wrists had been bound. He regrets to say that the evidence given leads him to fear the worst for Lieut. Anderson, of Fane's Irregulars, and Mr. de Normann, Mr. Bruce's attaché. They seem to have sunk, under circumstances of much suffering, from the consequences of the maltreatment to which they were subjected. His lordship encloses the depositions of two of the troopers.

General Sir Hope Grant reports the advance upon Pekin, its capture without a blow, and the loss of the Emperor's Summer Palace. The latter event, he says, "appears to have had great effect upon the Chinese authorities, who appear to be now willing to accede to our demands."

MR. LOCH'S NARRATIVE OF HIS CAPTIVITY.

In a letter dated Oct. 9th Mr. Loch, Lord Elgin's private secretary, gives a long and very interesting account of his capture and imprisonment by the Chinese. It will be remembered that he formed one of a party to make arrangements with the Imperial Commissioners for the Allies to encamp at Tungchow. It was in that city, after they had passed through the Chinese lines, that they learned the dangerous position they were in:—

On our arrival at our yamun the whole party were mounted and ready. It consisted of Mr. Parkes, Captain Brabazon, Mr. de Normann, Mr. Bowlby, Mr. Anderson commanding, one King's Dragoon Guard and seventeen sowars, and myself, twenty-four in all. We proceeded at a sharp canter. After proceeding half way we took a wrong turn to the left; this however did not delay us five minutes, and we made straight for Chang-kia-wang, the streets of which place we found full of soldiers. As we cleared the town we heard the guns open, and saw the smoke of guns on both sides, at which time we were within half a mile of being clear of the Chinese line. As we went at a canter, a body of cavalry, ranged up on either side, began blowing their matches, and getting their matchlocks and bows and arrows ready. As this had rather the appearance of fight on our part, and as the cavalry might have opened a cross fire upon us at any moment, we halted to consult. The Chinese cavalry, about 300 in number, then drew up in front, and on either flank, supported by a large body of infantry. They said civilly enough that as fire had opened, we could not pass through their lines without an order from their general, who was close by. We had to consider whether we should attempt to force our way through this body of men, and some 3,000 who were beyond them, and between us and our army, or act as this officer proposed, and go to the general, by which course we should not forfeit the protection of the flag of truce. Mr. Parkes said he would go to the general, and asked me to accompany him; taking one sowar, to carry the flag of truce, we galloped off in the direction indicated. As we turned the corner of a field of millet, which hid us from our escort, we found ourselves in front of about 150 infantry, who rushed forward with their matchlocks

pointed, and had it not been for a Chinese officer, who knocked them up, we should have been shot down.

These infantry were on the bank of the small stream I have before referred to, beyond which we saw several mandarins on horseback. We pushed through the infantry, and Mr. Parkes addressed one, who he was informed was Prince Sang-ko-lin-sin, and asked for a safe pass for our flag of truce, but he only received abuse in reply. After a few words, Mr. Parkes turned to me and said, "I think we are prisoners." At that time we were surrounded by men, who seized both us and our horses. It was hopeless to resist; we dismounted, our arms were laid hold of and twisted behind us. In this position we were taken across the stream, over a bridge formed by a boat, and shoved down on our knees in front of Sang-ko-lin-sin. I was knocked forward and my head rubbed in the dirt. Sang-ko-lin-sin spoke to Mr. Parkes with much vehemence. He accused Mr. Parkes of being the cause of all the difficulties that had arisen, and of the action that was now taking place. He then ordered our being taken to the Prince of I, and sent an officer to tell our escort to return to Chang-kia-wan. We listened anxiously for any firing or signs of resistance from that quarter, but heard none.

The prisoners were put into carts and hurried through the streets of Tungchow after the Prince of I, who had left for Pekin, to a large camp.

There we were taken out of the cart, and taken before Jui-lin, one of the principal Secretaries of State; we were made to kneel down, and an examination commenced; this went on for some time. The heat and dust had greatly exhausted us, and Mr. Parkes, to bring this tiresome and useless examination to a close, pretended faintness, and we were moved to a room of a small farm-house close by. Here we were allowed to lie down for a short time, but were soon made to get up by people coming to search us. They took from us all our letters, papers, watches, &c. We were then removed to a small temple, and taken before some mandarins whom Mr. Parkes recognised as belonging to the Prince of I's suite. They made us kneel, and commenced a long and troublesome examination, which was suddenly interrupted evidently by some panic, either by an advance of our troops or from some other cause. Our examiners hurriedly disappeared, and a number of soldiers rushed in with loud cries, who bound our hands tightly behind our backs; from their language and gestures Mr. Parkes anticipated we were about to be executed, for they shook their spears and swords at us in a threatening manner. We were taken thus bound into the court of the temple, when some change seemed to take place in their plans, for they hurried us back again, and took us outside, when they put us into a common country cart, which they drove off at a quick pace; this, with our hands bound behind us, caused us agonies.

It was dark when they reached Pekin. The crowds of people who came to see them could hardly be kept back.

The street we entered on passing the gate was some fifty feet broad, but the houses on either side were small, and only of one story. Darkness coming on we could not see anything, even if we had the strength to look about us.

We rolled through street after street, and the way seemed interminable, we passed through another gateway, and shortly afterwards turned into a large courtyard. Mr. Parkes saw on the lanterns Hsingpoo, or the Board of Punishments. We were kept in the court some quarter of an hour. Mr. Parkes was then pulled out, and taken before the examiners. After ten minutes' anxious suspense I saw him pass loaded with chains. I was then taken into a small room, dimly lighted. Chains and various other evidences of prisons and tortures were hung about the walls. The examiners sat behind a table, in front of which I was forced down upon my knees; a number of questions were put to me, which of course I did not understand, but a man who seized me by the hair and another by the ear and beard gave me a shake and a cuff each time I failed to answer. After five minutes of this I made signs I wanted my hat that had been knocked off and was lying in front of me; at this the examiners abused me, and I was knocked forward on my face, a large iron collar was put round my neck with a long heavy chain attached to it, and I was removed into an inner courtyard, where by the dim light of a lantern I saw Mr. Parkes seated on a bench. Few words passed between us; two chains were made fast to my legs, passing through the long chain which was attached to the collar round my neck. We were then made to get up; and the saddest moment of the day then came, for I saw Mr. Parkes being led away in one direction while they took me another. I could only say "God bless you, Parkes!" and we were separated.

They led me through long open passages into a courtyard, which had a long barn-like building on one side, with grated windows, through which a strong light shone. The gaolers rapped at the door, when the most unearthly yell arose that I ever heard, the door was opened with a bang, and I found myself surrounded by about forty half-naked savage villanous-looking fellows as I ever saw in my life. They were criminals of all descriptions, murderers, thieves, &c.; some twenty of them were chained like myself. One end of the room seemed kept apart for their use; at the other end were the prisoners who were not chained, and seemed of a better class. As soon as I had entered the door was closed behind me, and the gaolers pinioned my elbows, although my hands were still bound. By this time I had lost all use of my fingers; they felt bursting, and my hands were greatly swollen. After a little time they loosened the rope at my wrist, but only to put on irons. They gave me a cup of tea, which was very grateful, for I was greatly exhausted. I was glad to see that they intended to place me among the better lot of unchained prisoners, for the others were covered with itch and vermin. They laid me down on a board like a guard-room bed, and chained me up by my neck chain to a beam over my head. I was able to lie at full length, and worn out utterly, I fell into a deep sleep.

The next morning my waking was very sad. A little after daylight the doors were thrown open, and we were unchained from the beams, and everyone went into the courtyard. The yard was about sixteen yards square, and a large verandah was in front of the prison. In one corner of the yard was the cook-house; on the other three sides were small wards or prisons, for one or two favoured prisoners.

At about nine o'clock two mandarins came in to superintend the distribution of the food for the prisoners. The food the government supplies is only boiled millet, with occasionally a little salt vegetable; a large bowl twice a-day is given to each prisoner. The millet is brought in in a large tub by two men, and served up hot. Only those in chains are on this food; the rest of the prisoners, among whom I was included, received some rice, green vegetables, and a little chopped meat, and French beans, with either bread or biscuit; this we got twice daily. This food is found and paid for by one of the prisoners, it being a way by which they are allowed to work off a portion of their term of imprisonment. The man who supplied us was imprisoned for thieving, and the cost of feeding the prisoners could not have amounted to less than two taels a day.

The prisoners were very civil and kind; three were appointed to watch and guard me, and at night one always sat at the head of my bed. They helped me by carrying my chain, by getting me water to wash my face and hands, and by getting me a seat to myself if I wanted one.

I found out that of my three attendants two were murderers, and the third was imprisoned for biting his father's finger off. I was surprised to see the good and kindly feeling that existed between all the prisoners; they seemed to feel for each other, and I have often seen a man who had a little better food than his neighbour give him half. During the twelve days I was in prison with them, I only heard one quarrel.

On the first morning of my imprisonment the officials of the prison, two white-button mandarins, made me go down on my knees, and asked me a number of questions which I did not understand. In the afternoon I was taken into the courtyard again, and made to kneel for a long time before a number of red-buttoned mandarins, who from their manner evidently abused me. I was then taken back and chained up.

I had succeeded in saving my prayer-book up to the time of being brought into the prison, but it was then taken from me; by signs, however, I got it returned to me the second day. What attracted the greatest curiosity amongst the prisoners and the mandarins who visited me were my boots and this book. The second and third day I was also much visited, sometimes had out to kneel and be abused, other times the visits seemed private, after then I was seldom visited.

I made various efforts, through the official visiting mandarins, to obtain an interview with Mr. Parkes, and although they sometimes by signs led me to hope that such might be granted, it never was. I heard of Hang-ta-jin having been to see Mr. Parkes frequently, but I was utterly ignorant of the subject of his visits. The days passed wearily by. I calculated and re-calculated the time that would be required for the various movements; I found reasons for delays as days passed and no change came to our situation, but I fed myself with the hope that we should all be released. I had many anxious thoughts as to what had happened to the rest of our party; our impression was that they had escaped. So the days passed until the morning of the 29th of September: there had been two great gaol deliveries during the period of my confinement, and on the 29th all excepting the men in chains were liberated.

On the same day Mr. Loch's iron collar was taken off and his chains removed, and he was put into another yard where Mr. Parkes was.

We were placed in separate carts, but this time in the proper carriage-cart, well cushioned. We were taken to the Rao-miao temple, which is close to the north side. Here we found a good room prepared for us, and another for our attendants, who were some of our old gaolers. We had a good-sized courtyard, in which we were allowed to walk. A remarkably fine guard of Mantchu cavalry, consisting of twenty men, had us under their especial charge.

Hang accompanied us to the temple, but soon left, promising to return in the morning. I then learnt from Mr. Parkes of the frequent visits Hang had paid him during his imprisonment, and I cannot be too grateful to Mr. Parkes for his noble and disinterested conduct towards me in his firmly refusing to accept any of Hang's offers of release unless he was accompanied by me.

In fact, during the whole of the first day, and during the latter portion of our imprisonment, which we passed together, I cannot express myself in terms of too great admiration of his fearless and determined bearing throughout the trials and difficulties that surrounded us; and I am convinced that one great cause of the happy termination to those dangers, was the firm and consistent language he held to those mandarins, who were sent to attempt to gain admission from him, either through his hopes or fears.

From the 29th September to the 8th instant they were confined in the Rao-miao temple; almost daily Hang came and held long conversations with Mr. Parkes. It was a period of great anxiety and trial, for although they were well treated, they knew that their release, indeed their existence, depended greatly upon how the movements of our troops outside the city might affect the feelings of the Chinese and mandarins inside.

Up to within the last few days we were kept in utter ignorance of all that had occurred, but Mr. Wade's letter of the 4th instant made us pretty well acquainted with what had passed.

Hang came yesterday morning with Mr. Wade's letter, calling on the Chinese Government to surrender one of the gates of the city to be occupied by our troops; he said it was impossible, and it was long before he would say whether we could be released; however, at last he did so, and at two o'clock we were put into a cart together, and conducted under a strong escort to the west gate. The streets were deserted and the shops closed. On leaving the gate our escort left us, and we were left by ourselves to reach the camp, where, I thank God, we arrived in safety at 3.30 p.m. The Sikh sowar and five Frenchmen were released at the same time.

THE DEATH OF CAPTAIN ANDERSON AND MR. DE NORMANN.

We have room only to add the substance of the evidence of the Sikh trooper concerning poor Anderson and De Normann:—

We were taken through Pekin to a garden on the other side, and put into tents, six in each. About half-an-hour after, Mr. de Normann was taken out, under pretence of having his face and hands washed. He was

seized, thrown on the ground, and his hands and feet tied together behind. Mr. Anderson was then taken out and tied in the same manner, then Mr. Bowlby, and then the Frenchman, and then the sowars. After we had all been tied, they put water on our bonds to tighten them. They then lifted us up and took us into a courtyard, where we remained in the open for three days exposed to the sun and cold. Mr. Anderson became delirious the second day from the sun and want of water and food. We had nothing to eat all that time. At last they gave us about two square inches of bread, and a little water. In the daytime the place was left open, and hundreds came to stare at us; there were many men of rank amongst the spectators. At night a soldier was placed on guard over each of us. If we spoke a word or asked for water we were beaten and stamped upon. They kicked us about the head with their boots; if we asked for something to eat they crammed dirt down our mouths. At the end of the third day irons were put on our necks, wrists, and ankles, and about three on the fourth day we were taken away in carts. I never saw Mr. Anderson again. In our two carts there were eight of us—viz., three Frenchmen, four Sikhs, and myself. One Frenchman died on the road; he was wounded with a sword-cut on the head. We were then taken away towards the hill. That night we stopped at a house to eat and rest, and travelled all the next day. We stopped again at night, and late the next day arrived at a walled town as big as Tientsin. We were taken into the gaol. A Frenchman died after we had been in gaol about eight or nine days, and Sowar Prem Singh about three or four days after that. They both died from maggots eating into their flesh, and from which mortification ensued. The mandarin in charge of the gaol took off my irons about ten days ago. The Chinese prisoners were very kind to us, cleaned and washed our wounds, and gave us what they had to eat.

Jowalla Sing, Dufadar, 1st Troop Fane's Horse, says:—

After the first day at the second place, Lieutenant Anderson became delirious, and remained so, with a few lucid intervals, until his death, which occurred on the ninth day of his imprisonment. Two days before his death his nails and fingers burst from the tightness of the cords, and mortification set in, and the bones of his wrist were exposed. While he was alive worms were generated in his wounds, and ate into and crawled over his body. They left the body there three days, and then took it away. Five days after his death a sowar named Ramdun died in the same state. His body was taken away immediately. Three days after this Mr. De Normann died. On the evening of the day of Lieutenant Anderson's decease the cords were taken off our hands, but our feet were still kept bound, and from that time we were better fed. Our feet were unbound two days after this, and from that time we were better fed, and kept so until our release yesterday evening. When Lieutenant Anderson and our comrades called on us to help him by biting his cords, the Chinamen kicked us away.

THE CHINESE INSURGENTS.

The China mail of Oct. 29 says:—"There have been rumours published at Shanghai of the outbreak of a new rebellion—no way connected with that of Tai-pings—in the province of Shen-si, which lies to the west of that where Peking is. This, if true, would be of great importance, as placing the Emperor in a worse position than ever; but the reports have the appearance of merely an insignificant local outbreak. Of the Tai-ping rebels we hear little at present. They are reported to have appeared before Han-chow lately, but to have moved off on finding it well garrisoned. From Ningpo we learn that the insurgent movement in the neighbourhood of Shanghai has considerably increased the tea and silk trade at the former port. Should the approaches to Shanghai be blocked up by the same cause for any length of time, that may possibly be the means of diverting a considerable amount of the trade of that port to Ningpo, particularly as both the tea and silk districts are nearer to Ningpo than to Shanghai, and there is an easier internal communication with the former."

NEW ZEALAND.

News from Taranaki, to the 13th inst., confirms the previous intelligence. General Pratt returned to Taranaki to protect that place from the anticipated attack by the Waikatos. The Waikatos were not then expected for a week. Captain Pasley, R.E., was reported wounded in the leg at Kaihihi on the 11th.

The successor of the late King Potatau has been found in the person of the son of Wherowhero, who has been elected, and has assumed the title of "Potatau II."

AUSTRALIA.

Advices from Melbourne are to October 25th. The *Melbourne Herald* says the yield of the precious metal shows some falling off. Business steady, being neither remarkably depressed nor the reverse. We have no general crisis, nor have we speculative excitement. Revivalism is spreading on some of the gold fields. Several poor workmen have become insane. The colony of Victoria boasts of 5,000 Volunteers.

The news by the present steamer from Australia is in one respect the most important ever received. The problem as to the possibility of crossing the continent from South to North has been virtually solved. Mr. Stuart, who started from Adelaide about last March on an exploring expedition, with two companions and a number of horses, has returned, after having crossed the country to a distance of about 1,600 miles from Adelaide and to within 300 miles of the Victoria river. Here he was turned back by a body of hostile natives; but, as he had already reached 100 miles further north than the point to which Gregory's expedition in 1856 descended from the Victoria, the continent may be considered, by the joint results of these surveys, to have been fairly opened up from one end to the

other. Instead of an arid desert, it is described to be a practicable country throughout.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

Advices from Constantinople state that Omar Pacha is seriously indisposed.

The Marquis Mario de Candia, father of the celebrated tenor, M. Mario, has been appointed by King Victor Emmanuel, Commander-in-Chief of the military division of the island of Sardinia.

The *Post's* Paris correspondent hears "there is no chance of Mr. Whitworth's gun being used in France, —the naval authorities having pronounced decidedly against it."

The municipality of Naples have decreed a statue to General Garibaldi, to be erected in one of the public squares, to be called after him. It has also decreed medals of honour to those of the National Guard who have distinguished themselves during the late memorable events.

In reply to a petition from 250 Hebrew congregations, a declaration has been published by the Prussian Government, intimating their intention for the future to avail themselves of the services of Jews in the various departments of the State. This is carrying out the spirit of the law enacted in 1848, but which hitherto had been almost a dead letter.

THE HABEAS CORPUS IN ITALY.—Count Cavour has replied to the suggestion of Mr. Edwin James as to the advisability of introducing a Habeas Corpus law in Italy. "I will (he says) at once bring the subject under the notice of my colleague, the Keeper of the Seals, within whose special province are all questions of penal legislation, and I have no doubt that he will propose to the Parliament to approximate as nearly as possible to the law of England in this matter. My colleague, Minghetti, is preparing a law which will confer most complete self-government on all the provinces and communes. In this matter, also, it is our endeavour to accomplish by other means the same results which England, the classical mother of all liberty, has already achieved."

Postscript.

Wednesday, December 19, 1860.

LATEST FOREIGN NEWS.

CHINA.

THE MISSING ENGLISH PRISONERS.

FOREIGN-OFFICE, Dec. 18, 1860.

A telegram has been received from her Majesty's Minister at St. Petersburg, dated this afternoon, and stating that the Russian Government have received no news of the fate of Messrs. Bowlby and Brabazon.

INDIA.

THE INCOME-TAX EXCITEMENT.

BOMBAY, Nov. 26.

The import business is absolutely suspended, on account of the resentment against the Income-tax.

THE SIEGE OF GAETA.—ANOTHER MANIFESTO.

ROME (via Marseilles), Dec. 15.

The Piedmontese have occupied Ponte Corvo since the 11th inst. Some reactionary movements have taken place at Cagli and Gubbio.

The bombardment of Gaeta will recommence, in consequence of the non-acceptance by King Francis II. of the proposed conditions to surrender Gaeta.

Francis II. has issued a manifesto calling upon the Neapolitans to make a last effort to preserve their nationality. He guarantees to maintain their liberties and grant distinct Parliaments to the Two Sicilies. He also promises an amnesty. If compelled to succumb, he will maintain the firm hope of returning to his dominions.

ROME, Dec. 16.

The death of Cardinal Gaude is announced. A consistory will be held on Monday next, when the Pope will address an allocution to the cardinals. Several bishops, three of whom are suburban, have been appointed. Benevento is lost to the Holy See. Reactionary movements have taken place at several places in the March provinces and in Umbria. The Pontifical Zouaves have re-entered Rome. General Latour has left for Paris, on a special mission from Francis II. to the Emperor Napoleon.

THE VENETIAN QUESTION.

A letter from Berlin, dated the 15th inst., says:—"The pamphlet entitled 'L'Empereur Francois Joseph Ier et l'Europe' has made a deep impression at Berlin. All sensible men approve the conclusions it draws. In fact, Europe has a right to exact from Austria that she shall not cause a great European war for a province which she holds against the will of the population. Unhappily, the advices from Vienna hold out but little hope, and it is doubted whether the Emperor will even consent to discuss the point. The only way of making him accept the idea would be for public opinion in Austria to declare itself in an irresistible manner for the sale of Venetia."

THE GRAN CONFERENCE.

GRAN, Dec. 18.

The conference was opened to day at 10 a.m. At 11 a.m. the electoral law of 1848 had already been adopted by the assembly.

M. Desseroffy demanded that the Imperial diploma, inaugurating the new state of things, should be established on an inviolable legal basis,

which would at once remove any doubts concerning the national rights. He also said, "A Diet constituted according to the Electoral Law of 1848 could only be considered to form such a basis."

THE EFFECT OF THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The following despatch from Washington indicates the effect of the message in Congress:—

Washington, Dec. 4, 1860.

Opinions differ about the Message. It has not satisfied the South, nor pleased the North. It afforded Mr. Clingman, in the Senate, an opportunity to pronounce for disunion, and Mr. Crittenden to defend the Union.

In the House, on the question of referring the secession matter in the Message to a special committee, the declaration of Mr. Miles, of South Carolina, that his State was already out of the confederacy, and that her representatives were here out of mere form; of Mr. Hawkins, of Florida, that the day of compromises was passed; of Mr. Singleton, of Mississippi, that his State could take care of herself; of Mr. Pugh, of Alabama, that the Union was virtually dissolved; of Mr. Jones, of Georgia, representing A. H. Stephens' district, that his State was prepared to go out of the confederacy; and of other Southerners to a similar effect, produced but little sensation. There was a slight startle upon Mr. Miles's declaration, but it was only momentary, and the House settled itself quietly down. Senator Davis, in conversation with a gentleman, after reading that document, said that Mississippi did not intend to leave until the 4th of March, but that now she would go out on the 8th of January. Mr. Iverson, of Georgia, entertains the same views as Senator Davis. Governor Fitzpatrick, of Alabama, says that the message will rather precipitate action in the cotton States, and does not believe that anything which Congress may do can avert a disruption or stay the revolution.

EASTER DUE BATTLE AT ACCRINGTON.

The resistance offered by the men of Accrington gains firmness and strength. Already the Vicar of Whalley and his friends begin to falter. Their very efforts to recover lost ground prove injurious to their cause. Since the demonstration on Monday, Dec. 10th, the Rev. C. Williams has been served with a writ for the part he took in the demonstration. We understand that his offence is found in a speech, which he made at the request of Superintendent Carswell, and the effect of which was to send the people quietly home. During the Monday of the sale, the newly appointed collector of Easter Dues most injudiciously and impudently delivered notices of summonses in the main street; and, as might have been expected, got shouted and groaned at for his pains. Mr. Wm. Cronshaw was required on Thursday last to find two sureties for his keeping the peace towards Redman, the collector, though the evidence only proved that he groaned with the rest of the people. These proceedings have infused greater earnestness into the movement against Easter dues. On Monday evening last a public meeting was held in the Peel Institution, which was densely packed with an excited audience, numbering 1,500 men. The platform was crowded with manufacturers and the principal tradesmen of the town. Ralph Ashton, Esq., J.P., of Darwen, the Revs. J. Haley, W. G. Clapham, C. Williams, and A. Haworth, with Messrs. J. Massey, J. Barlow, T. Tattersall, and G. Kearley (of London), made telling speeches. At the close 145*l.* were added to the 136*l.* previously collected for a defence fund; and it was resolved to appeal to the country for help. Subscriptions can be made payable to Mr. J. Entwistle, Piccadilly, Accrington.

A proclamation appears in yesterday's *Gazette* proroguing Parliament from the 3rd of January to the 5th of February next, on which day it will meet for the despatch of business.

Viscount Palmerston arrived in London yesterday from Windsor Castle. Lord and Lady Palmerston afterwards left town for Broadlands.

On Monday three vessels went down on the sands which line the east coast near Great Yarmouth. Fortunately the crews were saved, and received into the Sailor's Home—a valuable institution which deserves to be well supported.

At the Stafford assizes on Monday there was a capital conviction for murder. A man named Twigg murdered his wife in a drunken quarrel. Mr. Baron Wilde, in passing sentence of death, made this sad case a lesson of warning to those who abandon themselves to habits of intoxication. The prisoner was deeply affected by his awful position, and his son, after giving his evidence, implored the Judge to extend mercy to his father.

Yesterday (Tuesday) Lord Stanhope, eldest son of the Earl of Chesterfield, was elected, without opposition, a knight to represent the southern division of the county of Nottingham in Parliament, a vacancy having been caused by the elevation of Viscount Newark to the Peerage as Earl Manvers.

MARK-LANE.—THIS DAY.

The quantity of English wheat on offer in to-day's market was very limited, and chiefly in poor condition. All kinds were in fair, but by no means active, request, at Monday's improvement in value. About an average business was passing in foreign wheat—the show of which was large—at quite previous rates. Floating cargoes of grain were held on higher terms. The barley trade was steady, and late rates were well supported. Malt, both old and new, realised very full prices. There was a good consumptive inquiry for oats, at very full prices. Both beans and peas changed hands steadily, at previous rates. The demand for flour was firm, at quite Monday's prices.

This market will be closed on Wednesday next.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

“J. A. Horner.”—Next week.

“N. R.”—We have not space for his letter, which has moreover reached us in an imperfect state.

“John Hume.”—Our space is preoccupied this week.

The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1860.

SUMMARY.

THE setting in of a severe frost, however seasonable to the well-to-do, comes with all the force of a calamity on hundreds and thousands of poor creatures unprepared to meet it. We trust that at this season of holiday-making the sharp weather will stimulate sympathy for the destitute and suffering. As we read of the profuse preparations in markets and shops to supply all the wants and wishes of those who can command creature comforts, the mind's eye casts a glance into the courts and alleys, where want, disease, and filth, run riot, and the very word “home” is a mockery. If nothing can be done at once to transform the “dens of demoralisation,” described by the Chairman of the West London Union, into comfortable dwellings, most of our readers may do something at this Christmas season to mitigate the hard lot of the poor, by providing them with the means of enjoyment.

The unexpected news of the conclusion of peace with China is even now in many quarters regarded as too good to be true. But the fact that it was received by the Russian Government, and transmitted from St. Petersburg by the English Ambassador, ought to remove all distrust. The treaty was signed on the 26th of Oct., nearly a fortnight subsequent to the detailed news that has come to hand. The information furnished by the last mail, especially that contained in the official despatches, is deeply interesting, though we regret that neither they nor the Russian telegram bring any tidings of Messrs. Bowly and Brabazon, beyond Sir Hope Grant's statement that some of the captured Englishmen had been conveyed a distance into the country, and would be brought back again and surrendered. The looting of the Summer Palace of the Emperor was begun and almost completed by the French alone; and it appears that in addition to the plunder taken, property nearly sufficient to pay the indemnity claimed was recklessly destroyed. It was after this event that Messrs. Parkes and Loch were surrendered by the authorities of Peking, who had previously, by cruel treatment and threats, endeavoured to turn these gentlemen to account in negotiation. Mr. Loch's interesting narrative reveals not only the utter faithlessness of the Mandarin class, but the small sympathy that obtains between them and the mass of the population; while the particulars of the shocking tortures endured by Captain Anderson and Mr. de Normann increase our fears for the safety of their fellow-captives.

It is gratifying to record that the new Government of Naples is grappling in earnest with the difficulties that surround it. While reactionists are creating disorder, and factions perverting the sacred name of Garibaldi to embitter public feeling, Farini and his colleagues are engaged in reorganizing the administration, promoting great public works, and instituting reforms which are telling even upon that degraded people. We have now authentic news that the Emperor Napoleon has given up

Francis II.; but with the usual wrongheaded obstinacy of a Bourbon, the ex-King refuses the terms proposed for the surrender of Gaeta, and makes a last appeal to the people who have dethroned him. But the fortnight's grace given to him will soon elapse, when the Sardinian fleet will, if he has not then retired, prevent his escape by sea. Meanwhile the Pope is actually engaged in raising a new army of 12,000 men, and in sending the refugee troops of Francis II. across the frontier to perpetuate the reign of anarchy in the Neapolitan provinces.

In the Austrian empire the struggle for constitutional rights is proceeding, with manifest indications of the inability of the Government to set at nought the popular demands. The county comitats in Hungary—influential local bodies—have required the re-establishment of the Diet and electoral law of 1848; and there is some probability that the conference of notables, called together at Gran, by the Cardinal Archbishop, will endorse the claim. It remains to be seen whether Baron Schmerling will be more willing than his predecessor at the Home Office to make a concession which would enable Hungary to put a decisive check upon the Imperial autocrat. A Paris pamphlet advocating the cession of Venetia to Victor Emmanuel has been received with great favour throughout Europe, and even at Berlin. Diplomacy has already begun to act, and if it succeeds in inducing Francis Joseph to yield, it will have achieved a greater triumph of red-tape than the present generation has witnessed.

Our ecclesiastical columns bear witness to the effect of Mr. Disraeli's Church-rate manifesto. The conferences at Liverpool, and the meetings at Preston, Ashton, and elsewhere, were unusually enthusiastic and successful. But far more significant than either is the great meeting of Dissenters at Bradford, representing nearly every denomination, at which a hearty vote of confidence in the Liberation Society was passed. Every week we hear of influential Nonconformists, who have hitherto held aloof from the movement, feeling constrained to join it in consequence of State-Church intolerance, and especially such events as have lately occurred at Accrington. In that excited town there are indications that the Vicar of Whalley is disposed to regard “discretion” as “the better part of valour.”

We have commented elsewhere upon the important Message of President Buchanan. Further details speak of the growth of the Secession feeling in the Servile States. It was expected that on the 19th South Carolina would formally secede from the Union. The South was increasingly affected by the stringency of the money market and the depreciation of property; and in some districts real uneasiness is felt as to the fidelity of the slaves.

PEACE WITH CHINA.

THE telegraphic summary of news from China upon which we commented last week, assumed a much less alarming aspect when the bare outline was filled in by the official despatches. We should, therefore, in all probability, have cast away the worst of our fears, upon a careful perusal of the details with which these documents supply us, even if we had received intelligence from no other source. But the telegram from St. Petersburg made public by Her Majesty's Government in the Monday morning papers, entirely relieves our anxiety. Peace has been concluded—ratifications of the treaty have been exchanged—the Allies have evacuated Peking. It is the pleasantest announcement made to the British public for many months. It will communicate a glow of splendour to the parting year. Let us be thankful, as, indeed, we have abundant reason to be, that it has pleased God to put an end to an affair upon our part in which it is impossible to dwell with satisfaction, and the conclusion of which has been so much more favourable than we had any right to expect!

For, after all, we have but barely escaped from a most embarrassing position. The submission of the Chinese Court and Government was made in the very nick of time. Had they delayed until our Armstrong guns had opened fire on the walls of Peking, it is hard to conjecture what might have been the result. A great military success which, no doubt, the Allied troops would have obtained, was the contingency most to be dreaded. It would have been, in all human probability, the most deplorable of political disasters. It was evidently so looked forward to even by those who urged most vehemently the march upon Peking. Not we alone, but the press generally, interpreted the last news from China in foreboding accents. The instincts of the British public disclosed to them a yawning gulf upon the very verge of which they were standing. Every sentence in the summary told of success—but there was no manifestation of pleasure—no indication of returning confidence. The price of

Funds declined—the tone of public opinion was ominously apprehensive—the prevalent impression, not at all unreasonable under the circumstances, was that we had an unknown but menacing future before us—and the most sanguine amongst us wished that we were well out of the scrape. The event, so much better than our anticipations, does not really affect the wisdom of our previous policy. We have come off well, but not because probabilities were in our favour. Blondin, also, has come off triumphantly from some of the most foolish feats which man ever undertook to perform. That we have succeeded does not prove that we did a right thing to try. For had we failed—and we might have done—had we got entangled, as the chances seemed to be that we should, in a political and dynastic collapse at Peking, involving us in responsibility for the future good government of China, and demanding a permanent British force in the empire, there is not a man among us who would not have mourned over the Allied Expedition as a fearful mistake—few who would not have alleged that the evil result of it might have been easily foreseen.

The truth is that, on grounds comparatively slight and originally unjustifiable, we have risked a tremendous alternative, and we have won. Our fortune has been better than our deserts. We have ventured into a gambling-house with high stakes, and we are leaving it without having incurred the ruin which the prudent predicted as our most likely fate. The less we boast of our success the better. It is all very well for the *Times* who counselled the adventure to exclaim “I told you how it would be.” The *Times* was not, by any means, so confident of its wisdom last week. But the public, we fancy, inexpressibly relieved by the issue, will be shy enough of rushing into any similar enterprise. “All's well that ends well” may be gasped out with surprise and delight at the fortunate termination of the present affair; but it will be a caution rather than an encouragement in reference to future speculations of the kind. No one but the *Times* thinks of saying, “What idiots we were to doubt!” Most people, on the contrary, are giving expression to their joy in some such exclamation as, “How lucky we have been to escape!” And so we hope Chinese wars have come to an end for the present generation. It is to be fervently desired that we shall send out no more swaggering and domineering Bruces to represent our dignity in the East—or, at any rate, that we shall be more cautious in adopting their quarrels than we have been on the present occasion. We have had a surfeit of consular and ambassadorial self-importance as it regards China. We have paid dearly for their fussy and indiscreet claims. If we now retire less deeply compromised than we imagined possible but a few days ago, we cannot but believe that the good sense of the British public will extract from the issue a valuable lesson—and that they will resolutely set their faces against any further tempting of evil chances.

THE TRUE COMPLEMENT OF THE FRENCH TREATY.

REALLY, the year 1860 seems as if it were about to disappear in a blaze of glory. The termination of the war in China, although the greatest, is not by any means the only, political event which calls for an expression of hearty satisfaction. All Europe seems to be undergoing a change for the better. A short time ago we had the pleasure of announcing important constitutional changes voluntarily conceded by Napoleon III. to his French subjects. We are happy in being able to testify that the Circulars of Count Persigny, Minister of the Interior, to the Prefects of Departments, and the spirit in which he is dealing with the public press, exhibit a further relaxation in the rule of despotism. We learn, too, from unquestionable authority, that yielding to the representations of the British Government, the Emperor of the French has negotiated a truce between the besieging and besieged forces at Gaeta, with a view to give the Bourbon ex-King of Naples time for maturely considering his hopeless position—and that if, at the expiration of that interval, Francis II. should still persist in his defence, the French squadron will depart from the Gaetan waters, and leave Admiral Persano to bombard this stronghold from the sea. But the crowning item of European news is a decree of the Emperor, abolishing passports for British subjects travelling in French dominions, from and after January 1, 1861.

We call this concession of Napoleon III., unsolicited as we believe it to have been, and utterly unexpected as it certainly was, the true complement of the French treaty of commerce. It was the object of that treaty—and how loyally that object has been carried out by the subsequent convention is now happily placed beyond

dispute—to facilitate profitable trade between the two peoples. But a great expansion of trading intercourse would be perpetually hampered by police restrictions. If we are to carry on large and increasing business transactions with France, there will, of necessity, be much more travelling in that country than there has been. Few but those who have experienced them can imagine the endless annoyances of the passport system. Even the desire of pecuniary gain, strong as that motive ordinarily is with Englishmen, would often forego its ends rather than face the numerous vexations to which a constant police *surveillance* exposed commercial travellers in France. The Emperor has been sagacious enough to detect the intimate connexion subsisting between freedom of trade and freedom of personal locomotion—and he has given incontestable proof of his sincere desire for the one, by spontaneously conceding the other.

But we look upon this abandonment of the passport system, more especially as it is confined to British subjects, as indicating something more than the Emperor's allegiance to Free-trade principles. It is a marked indication of friendly feeling to this country. It is a graceful rebuke to those who are perpetually telling us to view the Emperor's movements with suspicion. It is a practical answer to the cry of invasion. It emphatically expresses Napoleon's wishes for, and confidence in, European peace. As such, it is especially grateful at the present moment. We have scarcely ceased to hear the Imperial intentions in proposing a treaty of commerce grossly maligned. It is but yesterday, as it were, that the treaty itself was roundly abused as "a dead take-in," and that French professions of amity were held up as "a mockery, a delusion, and a snare." The blushes excited by the inordinate cynicism of some of our own countrymen have scarcely subsided, when a new proof is offered us that their suspicions were utterly unfounded and unjust. Instead of invading England, Napoleon invites Englishmen to invade France, in the prosecution of peaceful enterprise. We are glad to observe that this time, at least, "the gift horse" has not been "looked in the mouth." The concession has been as frankly accepted as it was gracefully made; and, for once, the leading journal has done homage to the wise liberality of the Emperor.

And now we would fain hope that the chief causes of irritation having been removed from between the two countries, a cordial intimacy will grow up between them. We see no good reason why, from henceforth, the ties which connect nation with nation should not go on indefinitely multiplying themselves, and binding together England and France in a union of interests and sympathies too powerful for incendiaries on either side of the Channel to sever. It is humiliating to be obliged to confess that we are indebted for this prospect mainly to a Sovereign whom a portion of our own press have persistently misrepresented and abused. But so it is. We are no apologists of Napoleon III. We have never shut our eyes to his misdeeds. But this we are obliged to confess, that he has done more to benefit this country, and to promote an *entente cordiale* between us and the French people, than any sovereign of modern times; and not least among the advantages he has conferred on us is the abolition, so far as we are concerned, of the passport nuisance.

A NEW REFORM BILL.

MR. C. GILPIN, in his very spirited address delivered last week to his constituents at Northampton, alluded, in terms hardly to be mistaken, to the probability of another Ministerial attempt at Parliamentary Reform to be made next Session, and calls upon the people, if they really desire an amended representation, to evince their wishes by a more active demonstration than they thought fit to exhibit in favour of Lord John Russell's last Bill. We hardly know whether to receive the announcement with gratification or regret. On the one hand, we cannot but be pleased at the noble lord's fidelity to the cause he has espoused. We are far too anxious to see a temperate Reform Bill passed into law to prefer waiting indefinitely for some grander change—for every real step we make in advance on this question will facilitate and prepare for the next. If, therefore, a Reform Bill can be passed, and if Ministers are convinced that they can this year succeed, we shall greatly applaud their resolution to settle the question out of hand.

But, we confess, we have no great expectation that they will succeed in rousing the enthusiasm of the people, and if the success of their measure depends upon their doing so we could almost venture to predict another failure. Everything is beautiful in its season; but repeated Reform Bills, introduced only to be abandoned, treated with levity by Parliament, and with indifference

by the public out of doors, may be regarded as things good in themselves, but worthless because unseasonable. We are afraid lest a really important constitutional question should come to be regarded in the light of Lord John's crotchets. We deprecate four or five weeks' barren discussion on projects not destined to come to maturity. We augur no good results from making smaller and smaller offers of Parliamentary Reform, year by year, in the hope that the question may one day or other have dwindled into such insignificant proportions that all parties will consent to pass it. The less Lord John gives, the less will the people care to receive. You cannot evoke their might in favour of trifles. Of course, Ministers have better opportunities of measuring their probabilities of success than we can have; but in our sober judgment, formed in opposition to all our inclinations and sympathies, the state of public feeling in reference to Parliamentary Reform, is not materially improved since last Session.

Possibly, the views of political parties in the House of Commons may have undergone some modification. The Conservative leaders may have come to the conclusion that the longer the question remains unsettled, the greater will be the chance of its being settled at last upon a broader basis than they like. But of this we have heard nothing—we have seen no indication. And if this were the case, we see no occasion for Mr. Gilpin's fervent and stirring appeal to the people. We remain in doubt, which time only can dispel. Should a Reform Bill be really carried next Session, framed on sound principles as far as it extends, no one will be more ready than we shall to acknowledge the obligations of the country to the Palmerston Administration. The most hopeful indication in regard to the matter is the reckless and ungovernable violence of the *Times*.

"THE IRREPRESSIBLE CONFLICT."

THE President of the United States has officially endorsed the principle that the Southern States are to obtain all the advantage from the late victory of the North. The concessions which he, the representative of the Slave Power, has not ventured to ask, are to be extorted from a Free Soil President. It is a new application of the maxim, "Heads I win, tails you lose." Mr. Buchanan does not regard the mere election of a President with Northern principles as a reasonable ground for secession; but if that President attempts to carry out the programme of the majority who legally elected him—if the North is not prepared to surrender that for which it fought and won—the South "will be justified in revolutionary resistance to the Government of the Union." The President in his Message, it is true, denies that any State has a constitutional right to secede, but at the same time asserts that Congress has no power to resist secession; and that, even if it had that power, it would be neither practicable nor right to use it. Secession would be revolution, he tells Congress; but revolution is justifiable if the defeated are not allowed to enjoy the fruits of victory. Do we need a better proof of the depraving influence of slavery when an intelligent statesman like Mr. Buchanan can deliberately propound such unconstitutional doctrines?

Having thus cleared the way for the secession, if needs be, of the Slave States, or rather for making use of the threat, Mr. Buchanan proceeds to lay down the terms on which they might consent to remain. He proposes an amendment of the Constitution in the following important particulars:—

1. An express recognition of the right of property in slaves in the States where it now exists or may hereafter exist.
2. The duty of protecting this right in all the common Territories throughout their territorial existence, and until they shall be admitted as States into the Union, with or without slavery, as [their constitutions may prescribe.
3. A like recognition of the right of the master to have his slave, who has escaped from one State to another, restored and 'delivered up' to him, and of the validity of the Fugitive Slave Law enacted for this purpose, together with a declaration that all State laws impairing or defeating this right are violations of the constitution, and are consequently null and void."

If these amendments are conceded, the late Presidential election will have been a mere farce—indeed worse than a farce, for the demands now made have been for some time in abeyance. It is a revival of the Baltimore platform rejected on a solemn appeal to the vote of the Union. But Mr. Buchanan, like an astute advocate, demands more for his clients than he is prepared to press for. He urges, indeed, all his three "points," but lays greatest stress on the last. If the acts nullifying the Fugitive Slave Law are not repealed, then, "it will be impossible," he says, "to save the Union."

Heretofore Mr. Buchanan has been, in a general way, the President of the entire Union, but now that his party is defeated, he has become

the tool of a faction. It is as though Lord Derby, on the eve of retirement to make way for a Liberal Administration after a general election, were to call upon Parliament to declare that the Constitution needed no reform, and that Church-rates were an indefeasible right of the Establishment. "Disunion or concession" is the cry raised by the President himself. But it may turn out, on investigation, that the South is asking not only what will not, but cannot be granted.

The Fugitive Slave Law of 1850 gave power to Federal officers to enter any State of the Union for the recovery of fugitive slaves. It is still on the statute-book, but has become almost a dead letter in the North, because it is repugnant to the moral sense of the population. What would be the use of re-asserting that to be a valid law which is still legally in force? Mr. Buchanan asks Congress to declare "that all State laws impairing or defeating this right [the capture of fugitive slaves] are violations of the Constitution," under the threat that, if refused, the South will violate the Constitution by seceding, and be "justified" in so doing. In other words, the Constitution is binding on the Northern, but not on the Southern States. The President's logic in this case is a further illustration of the blinding influence of his slave creed.

For a second time—with a Fugitive Slave Law in legal existence for ten years—the Northern States are asked whether they will undertake to be kidnappers and gaolers in the interest of the South. The appeal must after all be, not to Congress, but to the State legislatures. It is they who have rendered that revolting enactment of none effect, not by open but by passive resistance. In some cases the Federal officers employed in hunting down escaped slaves are denied the use of prisons or any State building; in no less than nine, penalties are enacted against officials and citizens who assist the negro-catchers; and even in New York and Pennsylvania, the captured are defended at the expense of the State. In fact, in all the Free States, Personal Liberty Acts to nullify or modify the Fugitive Slave Law are in operation. To suppose that all these protective enactments are going to be repealed at a time when Northern principles have gained a legal triumph would be irrational. However Congress may act, the Northern State Legislatures are not likely ever again to become directly abettors of slavery. If they did, the people would take care to render the Fugitive Slave Law inoperative. The claim of the Southern States in this respect is after all deceptive. To South Carolina, the leader of disunion, the refusal to surrender fugitive slaves is practically no grievance at all.

What will be the issue of the present crisis is still uncertain. But the President's Message clears the way for disruption if there is no compromise, and the Northern States are greatly exasperated at the utter selfishness of the slaveholders, who have thrown everything into confusion without adequate cause. The freemen of the North may deem separation to be better than periodical panic, and the necessity of saturating all the institutions of the Union with the slave spirit, in order that the property in men may be preserved. A letter published elsewhere from one of the Slave States—written with the chance that our correspondent might be tarred or feathered, if not hung, for the crime of abolitionism—says that popular feeling in that part of the Union is, without doubt, in favour of disunion; and that "the influence of South Carolina is so strong, that if her convention should prove favourable to active measures, there can be no doubt that the other States would follow in any course which she might indicate." Several of the States, Florida for example, are, he says, pledged to follow the course taken by South Carolina. Congress is, however, now in session. Although the representatives of South Carolina, Florida, Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia, have promptly declared for secession, this may be no more than the usual threat intended to extort as large concessions as possible. Many exciting debates and prolonged agitation may still be expected before the momentous question is decided. At present there seems as much likelihood that the South will recede as that the North will surrender the ground it has lately gained, and confess once for all that the Union is only a device for giving supremacy to slaveholders.

STREET RAILWAYS.—Mr. G. F. Train, the projector of street tramways, has obtained the sanction of the parish authorities to lay down a line from Ball's Pond to the South end of the City-road. He applied on Tuesday to the City Commissioners of Sewers for leave to continue the line along Moorgate-street, and his application is referred to the Improvement Committee.

THE RECENT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

(From a Correspondent.)

Jacksonville, E. Florida, U. S., Nov. 21, 1860.

I have not the slightest doubt that if the enlightened citizens of this place had the least conception of my entertaining, and, still more, of my intending to express, the opinions which this letter contains, I should stand the best possible chance—if, indeed, I did not lose my life—of being tarred and feathered, or, as the least energetic indication of their opinion, driven out of the country. This may, to English ears, seem rather harsh treatment towards a stranger, who, I protest, has no insurrectionary designs, and has kept his mouth most discreetly closed against the utterance of all tabooed political opinions. That I am not, however, uncharitable in my judgment is well known to all who are familiar with the bitter intolerance of these Southern States. I confess that till within the last few weeks I had no conception of the depth of this feeling. A residence, however, in this most Southern State during the excitement of the recent Presidential Election enables me positively to aver, that were any man to give utterance to opinions at all favourable to "Black Republicanism," or Abolitionism, neither his liberty nor his life would be safe. Once and again, during and since the turmoil of the recent election, I have heard it most unblushingly declared of more than one person supposed to be favourable to, though they dared not vote for, the Republican ticket, that they would have to leave the town, as all hope of successful trade for them had been blighted by the bare suspicion that had fallen upon them. Though I feel, therefore, that I am on my good behaviour, and that my Southern friend, with long hair, black beard and moustache, who sits at yonder table, in the same room with me, would, if he knew me, like nothing better than to get up a hue and cry upon me, I venture to lay before you the result of my recent observation in rather extensive intercourse with all classes in this State; thankful, meanwhile, that my writing-case has a look of which I hold the key, and that when these lines appear before you I may hope to have reached a healthier latitude.

Let me just say that I write at present from Jacksonville, a town—city, I should say, since all American corporate towns rejoice in that dignity—with perhaps 3,000 or 4,000 inhabitants. It is the centre of a large district, however, and the capital of the lumber trade. Pine timber from the surrounding forests, which not long since were held in common possession by wild Indians, bears, and rattlesnakes, is here cut into planks by steam power, and shipped along the St. John's River to all parts of the world. Though unimportant as to its population, yet from the enterprising character of its inhabitants and its central position, its influence is considerable. But to come to the object of this communication.

All the world knows by this time that Abraham Lincoln, the Republican candidate—Black Republican as he is named by the slave party—has, by a large majority, been elected the future President of the United States. This event, the issue of a struggle which has extended over a series of years, will be found occupying a position in the future pages of American history second in interest and importance only to the Declaration of Independence itself. What its immediate effect on the great question of slavery may be, it is altogether impossible to predict. The mode, however, in which the men of the Southern States have received intimation of the fact, gives reason for believing that in their hands the question is rapidly approaching a solution; though they seem not to have the faintest conception of the portentous results which hang upon the course they are pursuing. The one question which is now being proposed by every one is—"Is the Union to be continued in its present form, or shall there be a secession on the part of the Southern States?" In the North and South alike it is agitating the minds of all classes, and as the subject is big with importance in its bearing on the future history of the world, I have thought that I might, without detaining you by the obtrusion of opinions of my own, just give your readers a few facts as illustrative of its present position.

To some of your readers a concise statement of the precise ground of dispute may not be unacceptable. In anticipation of that which many South Carolinians venture to regard as already a *fait accompli*, a declaration of independence on the part of the Southern States has already found its way into print, in which is set forth the special grievances under which the Southern States are said to labour. Space forbids an analysis of this document, but I may just say, after repeated conversations with those whose opinions may be taken to indicate the general feeling, that two counts especially in the indictment constitute the real ground of offence. First, without doubt, is the unwillingness of the Northern States to enforce the Fugitive Slave Law. The loudest outcry is heard that the legislative enactment on this subject has been virtually set aside and rendered actually inoperative by the separated contrary action of the individual Northern and New England States who have shown an indisposition to second its provisions. Hence it is gravely urged that the rights of Southern property, although professedly guarded by express enactment, are not regarded; and that the sanctity of law has been violated by the rapidly rising tide of Abolitionism. Then, secondly, there is great

wrath felt at the determination of the Northern States to allow of no introduction of slavery into territorial districts which have not yet formally been received into the Union. Whatever other pleas may be urged as grounds for separation, these two are, I believe, the Alpha and Omega of the whole. Ineffectual efforts have, it is said, been made, for a series of years, to secure a proper regard for the rights of the South. These, it is urged, have all been in vain. On the other hand, the party who have been especially obnoxious in resisting these claims have rapidly increased in number and strength; and now that the climax has been reached in the election of Abraham Lincoln, and all hope being extinguished, it is urged to be the duty of the South at once to take steps for severing a Union which is regarded as having failed in its primary object.

This I take to be a perfectly fair representation of the feeling on the part of the people generally. Even in those Southern States where no legislative action has been taken, the popular voice is, without doubt, and to an extent of which men in the North have no conception, in favour of disunion. Indignation meetings have been held in all parts of the Southern States, at which, along with a great many hard speeches, resolutions have been almost unanimously carried in favour of measures which will ultimately lead to separation. Special conventions will be held in all the States to determine what steps shall be taken. Already South Carolina, foremost in the fray, has summoned her convention for December 9th. It is even stated that negotiation has been opened with France to secure the Emperor's favourable consideration for the new republic. Many leading officials have resigned their offices, and others are prepared to follow. At present, such positive steps in the direction of disunion have only been taken by South Carolina. Some of the conservative leaders of the Southern States are understood to counsel a more moderate course, and advise that no action be taken till Lincoln's first manifesto has been issued; but the influence of South Carolina is so strong, that if her convention should prove favourable to active measures, there can be no doubt that the other States would follow in any course which she might indicate.

Of course the question will be argued whether any State, or number of States, have the right of secession, without the consent of the whole federal body. Already some of the ultra-Republican organs of the North are hinting at an appeal to force in maintenance of the Union, a threat which has its response in the public arming of Virginia, the border State, and the prompt and spontaneous formation, through the whole of the South, of various clubs, "Minute Men," and others, who, in opposition to the "Wide-Awakes" of the North, are sworn defenders of the district in case of an appeal to arms. That such an issue as this will ever be tried, cannot for a moment be supposed. It would be perfectly useless to seek to retain in the Union by force a body of nine millions of rebellious citizens, who are able and determined to fight in their defence. The question, whatever may be its legal and constitutional bearings, will have, when ever brought up, to be settled in a manner more in accordance with reason and religion than by an appeal to blood.

Meanwhile there can be no doubt of the immense injury which is being inflicted on the trade of the States. Hitherto the Southern districts of this vast continent have been the producers of the staples of the country, which have found their way into circulation through the Northern markets; and in return for which the North has given machinery, manufactured goods, and all the products of industrial skill. Henceforth, the threat is held, cotton, sugar, tobacco, and other goods heretofore exported through New York, shall find their way to Great Britain and Europe from Charleston and Savannah direct. Even now cotton-growers are withholding their consignments, and are preparing to carry their threats into execution. As a consequence, money transactions between the South and North are at an end. Paper cannot be discounted on any terms. I learn that for lumber just put on board five or six vessels from this port to New York, hard cash instead of the ordinary bills has been paid. How all this will end it is impossible to see. Wall-street is in a state of panic. Stocks are fearfully reduced in value, and naturally enough, the merchants of the North are beginning to ask whether nothing can be done to stem the tide of fanatical rage which is thus surging up from the South.

At present it is impossible to foresee what possible concurrence of events may prevent the carrying out of the purpose so strongly held by the South Carolinians. As we have already hinted, others of the Southern States are disposed to milder measures, and are even in one or two instances unwilling to entertain the question of disunion; but on the other hand several of the States, Florida to wit, are pledged to follow the lead of South Carolina. There can be little doubt that if she is able to maintain her position with a high hand, reluctant States will be drawn into acquiescence, and others who are merely waiting to see how the tide is about to flow, will be floated down the current. That the position of the country is one of most exciting interest cannot be doubted—the issue is in the hands of Him who is alone the Ruler among the nations, and can, we rejoice to know, make all promotive of His glory.

But, whatever may be the bearings of this subject on

the trade and commerce of the North, there is one question which in the midst of all is never mooted by Southern politicians; but which, in the event of a disunion, will possibly become paramount to all. *Should a disruption take place, what will be its effect upon the slaveholding population and the system of slavery itself.* Dim and dark though the minds of many of the slaves may be, there are, nevertheless, thousands of them who know full well the bearings of the question at issue. Anxious as the slaveholders are to suppress any agitation on the abstract question, and conscious as they seem to be that their tenure of property is most insecure, how will it be when the whole country is in a ferment on this specific question? Will not the slave feel as if, by the severance of the Union, he were still further removed from those who have hitherto shown a disposition to help him, and in being consigned, the more immediately, to the tender mercies of his pitiless master, will he be less disposed than now to lend a ready ear to insurrectionary movements? I confess I look at the future as big with portents in reference to this question. God grant that none of the anarchy and bloodshed which imagination has already depicted in the minds of not a few as likely to ensue, may be realised! It may, however, yet be seen by Southern slaveholders, that Black Republicanism, even with all its evils, had no infliction half so terrible as that which Nemesis-like will fall on the heads of those who have persisted in upholding the hideous system of negro slavery. B.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF A NEW GOVERNMENT REFORM BILL FOR 1861.

On Friday night Mr. Gilpin, M.P. for Northampton, and who holds the office of Secretary of the Poor Law Board, in an address to his constituents, which will in all probability attract considerable attention throughout the country, announced that, although he was emphatically not of the Cabinet, and could know nothing definitely of their plans, yet he had every reason to believe, speaking by permission but not on authority, that it was the intention of Lord John Russell to introduce into Parliament, in the ensuing session, a reform bill similar in its general provisions to that of last session, but with some modifications. The failure of the last bill was attributed to want of earnestness, both in and out of the House; but it was a positive fact that there was a strong desire on the part of England for a Reform Bill, and it was considered most advantageous to discuss it while the minds of men were calm enough on the subject to give it an impartial and unprejudiced consideration. He called on the people to send in petitions by the thousand to the House of Commons on the subject.

DEATH OF THE EARL OF ABERDEEN.

We regret to announce the death, at half-past one o'clock on Friday morning, of the Earl of Aberdeen. He had been long in extreme ill health, and for the last few days had been sinking rapidly. His sons, Colonel Alexander and Mr. Arthur Gordon, were present at his death, which took place at Argyll House. His eldest son, and the inheritor of his title and estates, is, we believe, in Egypt. Lord Aberdeen was in his seventy-seventh year. The following memoir of the deceased earl is from Charles Knight's "English Cyclopædia":—

George Hamilton Gordon, Earl of Aberdeen, was born Jan. 23, 1784, and succeeded to the title on the death of his grandfather in 1802: he was created Viscount Gordon in the peerage of the United Kingdom in 1814, and it is by this title that he sits in the House of Lords. After completing his education, the Earl of Aberdeen spent some time in travelling. Both in Greece and Italy he paid considerable attention to the study of the remains of antiquity; and he was one of the original members of the Athenian Club. These circumstances gave the point, such as it was, to Lord Byron's notice, in his "Hours of Idleness," of the "travell'dthane, Athenian Aberdeen." The result of the earl's antiquarian pursuits was given to the world in an "Introduction" to Wilkins's translation of Vitruvius's "Civil Architecture," 1812; and this "Introduction" having been revised and extended, his lordship published it as a distinct work in 1822, under the title of "An Inquiry into the Principles of Beauty in Grecian Architecture." In 1813 the earl was sent to Vienna on a special mission, and he was instrumental in obtaining the adhesion of Austria to the alliance against France, the preliminary treaty for which he signed, as the representative of England, at Toplitz, in October of that year. As the English Ambassador-Extraordinary to the Emperor Francis I., he shared in the negotiations which preceded and followed the return of Napoleon to France from Elba. Subsequently to his retirement from the embassy, the Earl of Aberdeen was known in politics as a steady adherent of the Tory party, and on the formation of the Duke of Wellington's first administration, in January, 1828, the earl accepted the office of Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, which he held till the resignation of the Ministry in November, 1830. His first act in office was to express his disapproval of the policy which had led to the destruction of the Turkish fleet at Navarino; and the passage in the king's speech (January 29, 1828) which termed that an "unoward event," and expressed the determination of the Government to uphold the independence of Turkey, has been generally attributed to him. In this his first term of office it fell to the lot of the earl to assist in establishing the independence of Greece, and to acknowledge the "Constitutional Monarchy" of France as the result of the revolution of 1830; and the prompt and frank recognition of both

these measures did much to secure the good-will of those countries. In the short-lived administration of Sir Robert Peel (November, 1834, to April, 1835) the Earl of Aberdeen held the office of Colonial Secretary. When Sir Robert Peel was restored to office (September, 1841) the Earl of Aberdeen again received the appointment of Foreign Secretary, and held it until the defeat of the ministry in July, 1846. His administration of foreign affairs may be said generally to have been marked by a cautious pacific policy, but at the same time there is no other evidence than the heated language of political opponents to show that he was ever neglectful of the honour and dignity of the country. In the dispute with the United States on the Oregon question he took a firm yet conciliatory position, and the credit of the satisfactory settlement of what at one time threatened to be a serious difficulty, is due to him. At a very early period, as is shown by his despatch to Lord Heytesbury, the English Ambassador at St. Petersburg, dated October 31, 1829, the Earl of Aberdeen had suspected, if he had not clearly penetrated, the designs of the Emperor Nicholas upon Turkey; and it was probably with a view more effectually to counteract those designs, that he laboured, during his possession of office, to strengthen as much as possible the alliance with Austria. From his long connection with Sir Robert Peel, the Earl of Aberdeen had come to be regarded not merely as the exponent of that statesman's views on foreign policy, but as, next to the Duke of Wellington, his chief supporter and representative in the House of Lords; and on the death of Sir Robert the earl was selected as the president of the great public meeting of his friends and supporters held at Willis's Rooms, July 23, 1850. From this time the Earl of Aberdeen may be regarded as virtually the head of what was known as the Peel party; and on the defeat of the Derby ministry, in December, 1852, he was entrusted with the formation of the new administration. This he effected by inducing a number of the leaders of the Whigs to unite with his own followers, thus forming a coalition ministry which lasted rather more than two years, and is likely to remain long a theme of as much controversy as other coalition ministries, whose acts and policy have so often exercised the pens and tongues of political writers and debaters. As at every other period of his political life, the earl was as prime minister earnestly bent on the maintenance of peace; yet, despite of his best efforts, 'the country drifted into war,' and a war, the magnitude of which few probably better appreciated than himself. But Lord Aberdeen, even after war was officially declared, clung to an early restoration of peace, and rested for that purpose on his favourite expedient of the Austrian alliance, more than was probably wise or justifiable—at any rate more than the public liked to see; and this, with the general feeling that the war was not being prosecuted with the vigour which its importance and the character of the country demanded, deprived the Aberdeen ministry of all support except from their immediate followers; so that when the earl resolved to treat Mr. Roebuck's motion (January 29, 1855) for an inquiry into the state of the army before Sebastopol, as a vote of want of confidence, and Lord John Russell seceded from the cabinet, the motion was carried by a majority greater probably than ever before defeated the most unpopular ministry. The earl at once resigned, and has not since taken any prominent part in public affairs. The war overturned all the earl's calculations, and arrested most of those measures of social and political improvement, which he had taken an early opportunity of announcing as the basis of his system of policy. Yet his administration will be remembered as having effected an important change in the government of India; largely and beneficially modified the exclusive system of Oxford University; carried several measures tending to improve the condition of the people; extended still further the principles of free trade; and laid the foundation of a better system of admission to, and improved management of, the civil service of the country.

While Lord Aberdeen was Foreign minister under Sir R. Peel, in 1843, the excitement relative to the non-intrusion and patronage question in the Church of Scotland was at its height. Neither his lordship nor Sir James Graham calculated on the sacrifices which noble-minded Christian men would make for conscience sake. They had been accustomed to deal with the baser elements of poor humanity, and they calculated on the tame submission of the Scottish clergy. They even hoped to retain the majority whilst they drove out the leaders, and so to lead a quieter life. They took the advice of worldly-minded moderate ministers, and did not even take the trouble to make a bridge for the escape of many who desired if possible to avoid secession. It is probable that liberal concessions would have averted the catastrophe, which has done so much to weaken the stability of all national ecclesiastical establishments.

Since Lord Aberdeen's retirement he has taken little part in public affairs. He has lived in dignified retirement on his estates, being a very successful agriculturist.

His lordship held various honorary offices usually bestowed on the patrons of intellectual pursuits. He was Chancellor of King's College, Aberdeen, President of the British Institution, and a governor of Harrow School and the Charterhouse; and for some years he was President of the Society of Antiquaries.

His lordship is succeeded by his eldest son, Lord Haddo, who was born in 1816, and is distinguished for his high principles and Christian philanthropy.

THE SYRIAN RELIEF FUND.—At a general meeting of the committee of the Syrian Relief Fund, held on Wednesday, the announcement was made that Lord John Russell had contributed 5,000*l.* of the public money towards the relief of the unfortunate Christians of Syria. The report of the executive committee stated that a sum of 23,000*l.* had been subscribed towards the fund, of which 15,000*l.* had been transmitted to Beyrout for the relief of the Syrian sufferers, and 2,500*l.* invested in the Three per Cents. as a reserved fund. The committee deserve great credit for their disinterested labours in this good cause.

OVERCROWDED DWELLINGS.

A letter in the *Times* of Monday, by Mr. James Harvey, chairman of the West London Union, contains new and painful facts relating to the fearfully overcrowded state of the dwellings of the poor:—

"Some time since the relieving officer and one of the guardians of the West London Union visited Plumtree-court, Holborn, which contains 27 houses, without back-yards, and with few exceptions, without back lights. These houses were occupied by 676 men, women, and children. In one room, 10ft. by 13ft., and 8ft. 6in. high, there were 13 persons living and sleeping, viz., 2 men, 5 women, and 6 children. In other house, 17ft. long and 16ft. wide (including the passage), with ground floor, first floor, and attic, there were 69 persons living and sleeping, with only one convenience in the basement. On another occasion when our relieving officer visited a house in this court, between twelve and one o'clock in the morning, for the apprehension of a man who had deserted his wife, in attempting to go into one room he was compelled to wait until the inmates had risen from the floor behind the door, so that the door could be opened. The people lay so thick on the floor that he had to be cautious in stepping between them. In this room there was one child suffering from the measles and another from the small-pox. On opening the door the stench was so great that the police officer who accompanied him was obliged to withdraw. From this court alone the parish has had to pay extra fees to the medical officer for the confinement of an incredible number of young women and 'widows' of illegitimate children. The cases continually being brought before our board of once respectable women who have fallen under such conditions are truly heart-rending, and form one of the greatest difficulties with which boards of guardians have to deal."

"A house in Holborn-buildings, 18 feet deep and 18 feet wide (including the passage), was visited last week, and was then occupied as follows:—Attic, seven women; first floor front, five women; ditto, back room, two married couples; ground floor front, five men; ditto, back room, four men; in all 25 persons, paying 1*s.* 6*d.* each per week—equal to 97*l.* 10*s.* per annum. The house is rated to the poor at 15*l.* per annum! A short time since a respectable married woman, with an infant nine months old, who had been deserted by her husband, lodged in this house for five weeks, paying 1*s.* 6*d.* per week for half a bed with a perfect stranger. She was then obliged to come into the workhouse. The respectable poor, in their distress, are thrust into these dens of demoralisation, because there are not dwellings within the reach of their means."

"In Plough-court, Fetter-lane (a blind court), containing 38 houses, at the taking of the census of 1851, nearly 2,000 people were living and sleeping, giving an average of nearly 40 persons to each house."

Court, Official, and Personal News.

Her Majesty visited the University and City of Oxford on Wednesday for the first time since her accession to the throne; but rather in a private capacity. It was generally understood that the object of her Majesty's visit was a complimentary one to the University authorities, by way of recognising the attention paid to the Prince of Wales, and as a parting compliment on his leaving the University. The Queen was accompanied by the Prince Consort, Princess Alice, Prince Alfred, and Prince Louis of Hesse Darmstadt. In the evening the Prince of Wales dined at the deanery of Christ Church. Afterwards Mrs. Liddell gave a grand soirée. On Friday evening the Prince dined with the Vice-Chancellor at Pembroke College, when a distinguished party was invited to meet his royal highness. At a later hour the Vice-Chancellor and Mrs. Jeune gave an evening party on an extensive scale, which was attended by the *élite* of the University, including most of the heads of houses and professors, with their wives and families. The guests amounted to upwards of 150.

It is rumoured that her Majesty will pay a more prolonged visit to Oxford than her recent one when the Prince of Wales has the honorary degree of D.C.L. conferred upon him, after the completion of his studies at Cambridge.

It is also currently rumoured that Frewen Hall has been taken permanently by the Queen, as the future residence of the younger branches of the royal family who may pursue their studies at Oxford.

The *Post* announces that the marriage of the Princess Alice will not take place until 1862, when the Princess will have attained the age of nineteen years.

On Friday there was a second dramatic performance in St. George's Hall. Amongst the visitors at the Castle have been the Duke of Athole, the Marquis of Chandos, Viscount Sydney, Lord and Lady Churchill, the Right Hon. Sir G. C. and Lady Theresa Lewis, and the Right. Hon. Lieut-Gen. and Lady Alice Peel.

On Saturday her Majesty held a private investiture of the Order of the Bath. Lieut-Gen. Sir Charles Yorke was invested as a military Knight Grand Cross. Major-Gen. T. A. Larcom (civil), Col. A. C. Stirling (military), Mr. G. L. Hodges (civil), and Sir E. Walker Head, Bart. (civil), were invested as Knights Commanders of the Bath. Lieut-Col. Robert Pratt (military), E. A. Reade, Esq. (civil), and F. O. Mayne, Esq. (civil), received their badges as Companions of the Order.

As a paragraph has appeared in the *Liberal*

journals announcing that Lord Robert Montagu has been appointed Parliamentary whipper-in to the Conservative party, we have to state that the report is without foundation. As yet the office has not been filled up.—*Press*. It is now said that either Lord Edwin Hill, M.P. for Downshire, or Mr. Whitmore, M.P., is to be the new Conservative "Whip."

A Cabinet Council was held on Saturday.

We (*Press*) are happy to state that the health of the Earl of Derby is so fully restored that he has invited a large shooting party to Knowsley Park after Christmas. A slight weakness in the ankles is the last trace which remains of the noble earl's recent severe indisposition.

The Empress of the French left London on Wednesday evening by the ordinary night train of the South-Eastern Railway, and slept at the Pavilion Hotel, at Folkestone, at ten a.m. On Thursday her Majesty embarked on board the Imperial Government steamer, for France, amidst deafening cheers.

Admiral Robinson will, it is stated, be the successor of Sir Baldwin Walker, as Surveyor of the Navy.

Sir Charles Trevelyan, late governor of Madras, has published a lengthy explanation of the causes which led to his recall.

On Monday the Duke of Newcastle was duly installed as a Knight of the Garter. The Queen gave a grand dinner in the evening in the Waterloo Gallery. The knights and officers of the Order of the Garter had the honour of being invited.

Miscellaneous News.

ANOTHER WORKING MAN'S CLUB AND READING ROOM is founded. Miss Adeline Cooper, to whom Westminster owes its Ragged School, is the originator. Tea and coffee are to be provided; lectures are arranged for; and the only prohibition is that smoking is not allowed during their delivery. The subscription is only a halfpenny per week. The Club is in Duck-lane, Westminster.

SUDDEN DEATH IN THE FRENCH CHURCH, ST. MARTIN'S-LE-GRAND.—An instance of the awful uncertainty of human life occurred in the French Church, St. Martin's-le-Grand, on Saturday. Dr. Isaac Jollit, one of the deacons of the church, was in the vestry, when he staggered and fell, and on being lifted up was found to be quite dead. Disease of the heart is the supposed cause of death. The deceased was between sixty and seventy years of age.

SAD ACCIDENT TO A LADY.—As Miss Statham, Principal of the Ladies' College, Bath, was standing on Richmond-hill, on Friday afternoon, talking with some female acquaintances, a crinoline she wore extended some distance over the footway, when a delivery cart drove past at a rapid rate, the step of which hooked in one of the hoops, and Miss Statham was dragged some distance along the ground; her legs were broken, and she was dreadfully out about the head and face, and lies in a precarious state.

GREAT DISTRESS IN COVENTRY.—Lord Leigh has headed a subscription list, followed by a number of other gentlemen in the town and neighbourhood of Leamington, for the suffering poor of Coventry, who are reduced to great distress in consequence of the ribbon trade being so bad. There are hundreds out of employment, and their families wanting bread. A number of gentlemen are trying to commence a cotton factory on purpose to employ some of them; but it will take a long time to get such an undertaking into work.

THE LATE NEWCASTLE ELECTION.—Mr. Carstairs, during his candidature here, was so fortunate as to win golden opinions from all sorts of people. It is not surprising therefore that on his defeat a general disposition should be manifested to express in some way the popular and almost universal feeling on his behalf. It was at first suggested that his election expenses should be paid by subscription; but at a meeting of his recent committee and personal friends here it was thought better to present him with a testimonial, and a resolution to that effect appears in our advertisement columns. A considerable sum has already been subscribed, and we hope that whatever form the testimonial may assume, it will be something worthy of the town.—*Newcastle Guardian*.

SOUTHWARK ELECTION.—The declaration of the poll took place on Wednesday. The High Bailiff announced that Mr. Layard had been returned by a majority of 1,195. Mr. Layard, in returning thanks, delivered a long speech. He spoke strongly in favour of an extension of the suffrage, and very warmly thanked the working classes for the manner in which they had supported him—a support to which he mainly attributed his election. He highly eulogised our Italian policy as expressed in Lord John Russell's second despatch. Upon the question of national expenditure he was no less emphatic. He said that he regarded the volunteer movement as the means by which the standing army might be reduced, and the burthens of taxation proportionately diminished. Mr. Layard stated that he had employed no paid agents or canvassers, and that even some of his cheque-takers in the polling booths had given their services gratuitously.

CONSUMPTION OF ARDENT SPIRITS.—The *Times* analyses a Parliamentary return just issued, showing for a series of years "the actual or estimated consumption of spirits" in the United Kingdom. The consumption in the year 1859 was no more than 28,661,674 gallons, or scarcely a gallon a head. Compared with 1852 the consumption in England had increased nearly 3,000,000 gallons, that of Scotland had decreased nearly 2,000,000, and that of Ireland 2,500,000. While England, with its 20,000,000 of

people, consumed 17,000,000 gallons of spirits last year, Scotland, with its 3,000,000 of population, took 5,600,000; and Ireland, with perhaps only its 6,000,000 of inhabitants, very nearly that precise number of gallons. But while, in 1851, with a population of 2,888,742, the consumption of spirits in Scotland reached 7,090,894 gallons, and was still higher in the next year, in 1859, with an estimated population a little over 3,000,000, the consumption was only 5,638,882 gallons.

MR. COBDEN AND THE FREEDOM OF THE CITY.—Mr. Connell, a member of the corporation, has received the following letter from Mr. Cobden:—"Paris, Dec. 7, 1860.—My dear Sir,—I am greatly obliged by your kind inquiries. My general health is perfectly good, but I am suffering from a slight renewal of bronchial irritation, caused, I presume, by the unfavourable weather. I have no faith in any other remedy for affections of the respiratory organs but that which is conveyed through the air we breathe, and I am going to Algeria for a month or two, in quest of a clear sky and a warm climate. On my return to England I shall hasten to present myself at the Guildhall, to acknowledge the honour of the Freedom of the City, which, under your auspices, was conferred on me, but which circumstances beyond my control have so long prevented me from receiving.—I remain, sincerely yours, R. COBDEN.—W. Connell, Esq.—P.S. I leave Paris tomorrow for Marseilles."

OPENING OF THE NEW HALL AT MUDIE'S LIBRARY.—Last night a company of about 500, consisting chiefly of persons celebrated in the literary and artistic world, assembled in the large and elegant hall which Mr. C. E. Mudie has recently added to his library in New Oxford-street, previous to its being opened for the purposes of his business. The building, which is in the Ionic style of architecture, is spacious and lofty, and somewhat resembles in its arrangements the different galleries of the library of the British Museum. Its size is sixty-five feet by forty-five feet, with a height of forty-five feet from the ground. A central staircase leads to a commodious basement, and a light gallery, giving access to the book-shelves above, runs round the interior. The principal cornice is supported by white Ionic columns, from which spring an elegant lantern, divided by pilasters and circular-headed windows, the roof being formed of transverse mouldings and spaces, filled in with ground glass. The shelves were entirely filled with books in glittering bindings, destined to do good service amongst Mr. Mudie's thousands of subscribers. The company included Mr. Charles Knight, Mr. and Mrs. Dallas, Mr. Hepworth Dixon, Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Howitt, Miss Jewsbury, Miss Mulock, Mr. George Cruikshank, Mr. M. Milnes, M.P., Mr. Shirley Brooks, Mr. C. Knight, R.A., Mr. Blanchard Jerrold, Mr. Anthony Trollope, Mr. John Forster, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Linton, Mr. Thomas Walker, Dr. Carpenter, Mr. Robert Chambers, Sir L. M'Ointock, the Revs. Dr. Halley, J. B. Brown, Dr. Angus, Newman Hall, Dr. Vaughan, Dr. Cumming, S. Minton, T. Binney, H. W. Channing, and Dr. Hamilton, Mr. Justice Haliburton, Mr. G. H. Lewes, Mr. Longman, Mr. Bohn, Mr. Routledge, Mr. Thornbury, &c. A collection of pictures was displayed in the hall, together with some rare photographs. Refreshments were supplied during the evening, and the guests were entertained with some good music, in which Miss Palmer and other vocalists took part. The building has been erected from the designs of Mr. W. J. Treherne, architect.

Literature.

Personal Narrative of Two Years' Imprisonment in Burmah. By HENRY GOUGER. London: John Murray.

BURMAH, forty years ago! when the country was a real *terra incognita*, when a white man was a wonder there, when a map of the world was incomprehensible to native statesmen, when the influences of Western Europe were as yet unfelt, and when British energy and resource were esteemed so inferior to Burmese skill and prowess, that the capture of Calcutta and the occupation of Bengal were talked of as an easy and trifling achievement!—what a subject!—full of strange resurrections, of contrasts with the present, and of scenes both gorgeous and terrible. Well may Mr. Gouger say that in the latest records of observation and experience in Burmah, he is almost unable to trace the ignorant, conceited, arrogant power with which he became all too fully acquainted during a residence of two years in the light of its court favour, and during two more of bondage and suffering in its horrible prisons. It is strange to gain thus from the past a picture that, for more than a generation, has been withheld from public gaze; and we cannot but be glad that Mr. Gouger has overcome the difficulties of timidity, naturally felt by one unpractised in literature, and has written for the world what he has no doubt often told to circles of absorbed and excited listeners. But while his book has much of novelty, and more of interest than any work of adventure in foreign lands and amongst nearly barbarous peoples, that has been published for many years, his materials will not be absolutely new and strange to those who condescend to read missionary biographies: for the Burmah of Mr. Gouger's

date is that of the Judsons, which has become a vivid picture in the minds of thousands who have read the lives of that devoted missionary and his first wife. Dr. Judson resided at Amerapoorah while Mr. Gouger was there; and when the latter fell under the displeasure of the Government, the former was soon involved in the perplexity as being also an English-speaking foreigner, and they became sharers of the same prison, the same fetters, and the same cruel and disgusting inflictions. Such a book will attract readers who would shun missionary works, by its delineations of a phase of Eastern assumption and splendour, and tyranny, and meanness, that has been greatly modified, and that the arms and commerce of the West have rudely pushed back within the closing gates of the Past: and it will speak with power to those who remember with reverence Burmah's first missionaries, of whom our author has to utter, both as friend and companion in tribulation, the words of praise and honour only.

Mr. Gouger, in 1822, was residing in Bengal, engaged in the cultivation of silk; but the oppressive injustice of the East India Company to all who engaged in a trade which they desired to keep exclusively in their own hands, made it desirable for him to seek his fortunes elsewhere. At the very time, the failure of health compelled an immediate execution of his projected plan of removal; and a friend having suggested a voyage to Rangoon, and an attempt at penetration to the capital of Burmah, with a view to the opening-up of commerce, he, interested by the romance as much as by the business prospects of the proposal, at once adopted it, carried it out, and arrived in the summer of 1822 in that empire. After a short sojourn in Rangoon, he proceeded up the Irrawaddi; through the jungle, and through a picturesque hilly country beyond; and reached Amerapoorah in September. The royal city had wide and cheerful streets, dotted with noble tamarind trees, and the houses of respectable appearance though of fragile materials. Things at first promised well for his proposed commercial intercourse with the people:—no government obstruction, no municipal dues, no jealous scrutiny, no popular opposition; but, on the contrary, a universal eagerness that the white man should at once open to the bidding of flocking crowds the various goods he had brought for sale. But it was necessary that the trader should seek his security and protection first by bowing before the "Golden Feet"; and he was graciously accorded

AN AUDIENCE OF THE KING.

"For some astrological reason, his Majesty had vacated his gorgeous Palace, and was inhabiting a temporary one near to it, constructed of bamboo and thatch. Of course no attempt had been made to decorate such a building. The apartments were large, and the Royal style of raising roof upon roof had been attended to, a huge bunch of straw crowning the whole, as the gilded tee or umbrella did the finished building; but it was so slightly put together that the floors creaked and bent uncomfortably under our weight as we walked over them.

"My ideas of the Court of his Majesty of Burmah were derived from descriptions of our former Envoys. I left my house, expecting to gain a momentary glance at a personage dressed up like a heathen idol, before whom all people were bowing in profound adoration—whose glory was too great to permit him to unbend, and to whom I should not be suffered to address a word in person. My imagination was filled with the idea that I was merely to go through a needful ceremony which I might not be permitted to repeat, and it was with the sensation of one who had to witness a curious and splendid show rather than to secure any tangible and permanent advantage, that I appeared before the Palace gates. From what I had read, I could not disconnect the King's human nature from the pageantry and exclusiveness with which it pleased his Court to invest it.

"Filled with these misconceptions, judge of my surprise, when, on entering a spacious apartment used as an Audience Hall, the floor creaking in a most uncourtly manner at each step, I beheld at the end of it a young man, about thirty years old, with a pleasant, good-humoured countenance, seated cross-legged on a gilded arm-chair of European make, manifesting no sign or symbol of state other than the chair he sat in, which rested on a stage very slightly raised from the floor. This was his Majesty! His costume did not vary from that of his courtiers, except that the silk cloth worn round the lions was a bright scarlet check, a colour confined to the use of the Royal family. This, and a light jacket tied with strings in front, made of white muslin, with a handkerchief of the same material twisted round the head to confine the hair, completed the costume of both the King and his people. There were probably forty or fifty persons assembled before him on the floor, in a posture half sitting, half kneeling, their bodies bent forward, their eyes fixed on the ground, and their hands clasped as in an attitude of respect, with some of whom his Majesty was apparently conversing on rather familiar terms.

"The presents intended for his Majesty were borne in gilded trains by some of the attendants in the Royal household, and being numerous, they formed rather an imposing procession. They consisted of a large, richly-cut crystal dish, selections from the best portions of my British manufactures, and twelve stands of capital muskets and bayonets, which were, no doubt, used against us with effect in the war which followed. These last attracted the greatest notice, and were examined with attention."

"After some inquiries about my country, and the objects I had in view in coming to Ava, his Majesty ad-

ressed a few words to some one in the ranks behind me, which, to my no small astonishment, elicited an address to me in clear, good English accent—"Are you, Sir, an Englishman?" Robinson Crusoe's surprise at the celebrated foot-print in the uninhabited island could hardly have surpassed mine, for I thought myself 500 miles away from any of my own race. I turned my head to the quarter where the voice came from, and shall never forget the whimsical figure the speaker presented to my view. He was a large, strongly-built man, slightly bent by age, attired after the fashion of the natives, already described—a long ample silk cloth round the waist, a loose muslin jacket, tied with strings in front, covered his body, but did not conceal the white skin beneath, barelegged of course, and his long grey hair twisted into a knot at the crown, where it was confined by a strip of white muslin. His long grey beard was so thinned, according to the native fashion, that that portion only which appertained to the middle part of the chin was preserved, and this being of a texture stiff as horse-hair, wagged backwards and forwards in a most ludicrous manner whenever he attempted to speak. He spoke Burmese fluently, and might well have passed for a native, had not his fair complexion, his light-blue eyes, and prominent nose, of such shape and colour as I have never seen except among my own respected countrymen, unmistakeably attested his origin. He was addressed as 'Yadza' (the nearest approach the Burmese language admits to 'Rogers'), and I now recollect that when in Rangoon I had heard of such a person residing at Amerapoorah, who had formerly held at the office of Collector of the Port, now filled by Mr. Lanciego. His history is a melancholy one, and I will give it hereafter as I heard it from his own lips. The King was highly amused at hearing a conversation in the English language for the first time, and encouraged us to continue it, though I fear some of the free remarks his aged servant was imprudent enough to make, would not have gone unpunished if they had been understood.

"The King was extremely affable, permitting me to take many little liberties which would not have been tolerated for a moment in his own subjects. Finding, from my awkward and undignified twistings, that I could not accomplish the native feat of sitting on one half of my body only, he desired that I should be at my ease, when, to the horror of all present, I proceeded to change my posture to a cross-legged seat, such as a tailor uses on his shop-board. I was not rebuked for this, nor when I sat upright, nor when I had the audacity to stare his Majesty in the face. It was evident he was pleased at the idea of my settling at the capital, by the protection he promised, in a manner that left no doubt it was intended. After liberty had been given to present my offerings to the chief Queen, and to come to the Palace as often as I liked, I was allowed to withdraw, backing out, as I saw others do, on all-fours for a few yards before rising."

On an introduction to the Queen, Mr. Gouger experienced great good luck, as she both became enamoured of his calicoes and muslins and desired to purchase, and, as a mark of personal favour, gave him a quid to chew, composed, he says, of all sorts of nastinesses, which it is delicious to a Burman to reduce to a pulp, as he saw done by a pretty girl who delightedly received the morsel from the Queen's own mouth. Subsequently a very profitable sale was effected at court amongst

THE LADIES OF THE PALACE.

"Several packages were sent away from my house early according to the Queen's command, and I followed them to the Palace about two o'clock, just after her Majesty had taken her noon-day nap. Female curiosity, however, was there before me. How could it be expected that fifty or sixty ladies should do violence to their feelings by submitting to unnecessary delay, when unheard-of finery lay hidden in the iron-bound boxes before them? The chests had been opened, and their contents strewn about in wonderful confusion. One young lady had attached herself to twenty or thirty yards of Manchester chintz, in which she was strutting about for the amusement of the rest, the superfluous length trailing on the ground behind her. Others gilded about like ghosts enveloped in endless white Glasgow muslins. Many dispersed themselves into little coteries of two and three, passing their remarks on articles for dress perhaps new to them. The clatter of tongues was great, and no effort was made to restrain laughter and fun. The moment I entered, many left the goods to talk to the merchant, a still greater curiosity. The unfortunate interpreter was worried with questions much faster than he could answer them, and, as it was evident I was the subject, my deficiency in the language was a sore trial. As tongues went faster, and practical jokes with the contents of the chests increased, there was some danger that these pleasantries might extend into rather riotous proportions, when the entrance of the chief Queen set matters to rights and restored order.

"While her Majesty was engaged in asking me questions about myself and my country, the ladies completed their selections. Her presence did not seem to impose more than a salutary restraint, for it did not prevent the conversation of the rest, which went on in a more subdued tone. Presently the King entered the apartment as if by accident. When he saw me seated on the floor he came forward rapidly, and gave me a smart slap on the head by way of recognition. Corrected as my ideas had been about the Regal dignity, I was yet little prepared for such a flattering mark of familiarity as this, and the dread Monarch was fast descending in my estimation to the level of a buffoon or a man of weak intellect. In this, however, I was quite mistaken; it was merely an indication that his Majesty was in a good humour, and might be approached with safety. When informed how his ladies had occupied themselves the last hour, his Majesty commanded each one to come forward in turn to give me an account of what she had taken, thus affording me an opportunity of saying a few words to each Lady of the Court singly, a gratification for which I was duly thankful.

"So far everything went on agreeably, but now came the painful duty of telling each of the fair purchasers how much she had to pay, and the still more difficult one of assessing the value of the gold and silver she presented for payment. The King's command, however, must be obeyed. Each lady must again be paraded

turn to make payment for what she had taken. His Majesty remained to see fair play, and entered into the spirit of the trafficking, laughing heartily at every dispute which subsequently occurred.

"Scales and weights were now introduced, but this I could not stand; my *amour propre* rebelled against it. I thought of Shylock the Jew, and though the two cases bore no similarity beyond the apparition of the weights and scales, he was present to my thoughts, and I insisted on making over this part of the play to Shwai-ee, who never having read Shakespeare had no such fancies to get over. I professed my ignorance of the touch of gold and the face of silver, an avowal that no doubt relieved the apprehensions of the ladies, who were looking for a grasping creditor, and who, with all their good-humoured smiles, were not free from a spice of avarice, or it might have been only a love of bargaining. Never was a man so baited as the poor Malabaree. Whenever he gave his honest opinion of the value of the gold, he was instantly assailed, accused of cheating, threatened, coaxed, bullied and called very hard names. When I was appealed to, I always gave judgment in favour of the lady, for finding the gentle creatures were, by their own unbiassed and voluntary assessment of prices, paying five or six times as much as the goods cost, I could well afford to be generous. The easy indifference I manifested in submitting to what they knew to be attempts at imposition gained me high favour, while it conferred also perhaps the character of greenhorn. I felt a great disposition to gain immortal renown by making them a present of all they had chosen, which would not have been a very extravagant gift after all, but I feared the precedent might be a troublesome one. With all their eagerness to take petty advantages, honesty was enforced in the main, and no one was allowed to evade the payment of her debt."

It will be interesting to see something of the only amusement the Burmese seem to have—unless we count the taming of wild elephants another;—so we extract an account of a

BURMESE REGATTA.

"A finer sight than their Regattas, when the King is present, can hardly be conceived; and perhaps no nation in the world was possessed of the means to get one up on so grand and imposing a scale. The boats are all of the light elegant canoe build, the bottom scooped from the trunk of a single gigantic teak tree, having very little beam, varying in length from sixty to eighty or even one hundred feet, and rowed by crews of nearly those numbers. They are not all designed for warlike purposes,—many are fancy-boats owned by the chief Nobles, who, knowing the devotion of the King to that pastime, and following his example, expend large sums in gilding and decorating their favourite craft. It is quite a national amusement, into which they enter with as much enthusiasm as the English do into the sports of the field or the turf, and a Burmese Noble will place as high a value on his favourite boat and crew, as any of our nobility would on an unrivalled racehorse.

"At these Regattas, the wide river is covered with hundreds of such beautiful boats, rowing in every direction before the King, who is seated in his Water Palace enjoying the sport. It is astonishing how they avoid collision, rowing hither and thither, and crossing each other's bows at the top of their speed; now taking a wide majestic sweep in turning, which seems to monopolise one-half of the river's breadth, now performing the same evolution in an almost fixed position, as though turning on a pivot. The whole has the appearance of being done on a programme, as much as a review in one of our parks, or accidents must ensue.

"When this intricate manoeuvring is finished, fresh boats and crews appear for the race. You may see them stretching to their oars here and there for short distances, just to impart life and energy to the men, as I have seen the experienced jockey canter his racehorse along the course before starting, to stretch his muscles and get him into wind. Then off they go like lightning. The distance is too short to admit any jockeyship—there is no holding back—the whole force is put out at once, and a speed attained that would astonish our Champions of the Thames. The velocity is such, that the contending boats have to shoot down the river a great distance, after passing the goal, before they can be rounded with safety, as horses at a race often pass the judge's stand nearly a quarter of a mile before their speed can be safely arrested. On returning, one of the victorious crew may be seen in the middle of the boat, dancing the favourite hornpipe to the music of the song, in exultation over his crestfallen adversaries.

"Besides racing, many skilful feats of water-craft are performed, such as propelling a boat against the stream by merely beating the air with the paddles. This is done by the crew standing, with lengthened paddles for the purpose, and favourable circumstances are taken advantage of, such as a sluggish part of the stream, calm weather, &c. But the most beautiful thing I saw was a boat with a powerful crew, which passed the Water Palace at the top of its speed, and, before proceeding many hundred yards, hid herself in a shower of sparkling spray thrown up by the practised skill of the rowers. She seemed to be entering an atmosphere of glittering mist, and the spray she left behind which hid her from view, was like that caused by the water of a cataract falling on the rocks below. These truly Royal festivals must have suffered a sad eclipse since the Monarchy has been shorn of the best half of its dominions. Before that time, every town or river district had to provide its own boat, the Chiefs emulating each other to produce one with the highest qualifications."

Dr. Price and Dr. Judson, the American missionaries, became resident in Burmah only shortly before the differences with Britain, the absurd claim to a portion of Bengal, and the consequent expedition against Rangoon. Mr. Gouger would have then left the country if he could or dared: he thinks the missionaries might have done, and that their stay was something like courting martyrdom. But of the men, and of the noble, heroic wife of the more celebrated of them, he tells us much that shows his own deep sympathy with their purpose and work, and his appreciation of the Christian excellence of their characters. And he is not ashamed himself to acknowledge both the religious neg-

lectfulness of his own life before their common troubles came, and the influence of those troubles in making him a partaker of their faith and hope.

Suspected as an English spy, Mr. Gouger was committed to prison,—the naturalised Mr. Rogers, who so startled him at the first interview with the King, was not spared,—and Price and Judson soon became their unfortunate companions. We cannot do justice to the terrible-ness of this part of the story when taken as a whole. The filth, misery, and darkness of their prison,—the tortures to which they were subjected,—the revolting character of their jailers, who were branded murderers, spared that they might serve as executioners,—the sight of horrid barbarities daily, from the use of the bamboo to the cool trampling out of a man's brains,—the endurance of chains, to one another, to a leper, and to the most brutalised creatures,—the indignities to which women were subjected,—and the weary expectation, night and day, and day and night, of the secret execution of their party,—until all sensibility was gone, and they neither shuddered to see others murdered, nor feared it for themselves!—these are but some of the elements of the picture. But there were alleviations. Sometimes the bribes administered by the courageous Mrs. Judson to the savage officials—sometimes her personal visits,—and at one time the pity and tenderness of a pretty young girl, the daughter of their jailer, brought them a momentary sense of relief, or a hope of deliverance. But we wish to see the prisoners themselves, in their endurance of barbarian cruelties, and in their ingenious mitigation of those cruelties;—yet must mutilate the passage we extract to reduce it to our limits.

JUDSON, PRICE, GOUGER, AND PRISON OCCUPATION.

"Mrs. Judson, who had been closely guarded in her house during these two eventful days, had managed to convey a bribe to the Myowoon. He desired that she might be brought into his presence, and, once there, being well versed in the language and the management of Burmese officials, she pleaded for mitigation of the sufferings of the missionaries in such eloquent terms, that the old man could not refuse her permission to see and converse with her husband in the prison. The meeting was most affecting, for though she had been informed of his being in fetters, she was quite unprepared for such a scene as she was now about to witness. It so happened, that at the moment of their interview outside the wicket-door, I had to hobble to the spot to receive my daily bundle of provisions, and the heart-rending scene which I there beheld was one that it is impossible to forget.

"Poor Judson was fastidiously neat and cleanly in his person and apparel, just the man to depict the metamorphosis he had undergone in these two wretched days in its strongest contrast. When Mrs. Judson had parted from him he was in the enjoyment of these personal comforts, whereas now none but an artist could describe his appearance. Two nights of restless torture of body and anxiety of mind had imparted to his countenance a haggard and death-like expression, while it would be hardly decent to advert in more than general terms to his begrimed and impure exterior. No wonder his wretched wife, shocked at the change, hid her face in her hands, overwhelmed with grief, hardly daring to trust herself to look upon him. Perhaps the part I myself sustained in the picture may have helped to rivet it on my memory, for though more than thirty-five years have since passed away, it reverts to me with all the freshness of a scene of yesterday.

"When I saw what a loathsome figure my friend Judson presented, and looked at myself, I made my recognition of his wife as short as possible for very shame's sake, and shuffled back to my den. Had a stranger seen the group, his pity would hardly have restrained his laughter for the moment.

"But Mrs. Judson was not a person to waste her energies in useless grief. In addition to amiable manners and a benevolent disposition, this excellent lady was endowed with unwearied activity in ministering to the wants of those who needed her aid, and before night came on, with its attendant horrors, the soothing effects of her diplomacy were felt by us all. The Governor and the Spotted Brotherhood had been bribed to gain some relief for her husband, and a promise had been given that we should all follow her example according to our means, a promise which, as yet, we had the power to fulfil, as the flight of harpies had not yet alighted on our dwellings, nor swept away our subsistence. The effect of this was perceived in an instant. Our quarters were changed from the filthy corner to an open shed opposite to the prison-door, where the Inquisitor sat when questioning his culprits. This was a boon indeed which called forth our gratitude to our amiable negotiator. Irrespective of the freedom from the bamboo, the filth, and the vermin, we regarded it as an indication of our lives being safe for the moment. . . . We had also the luxury of water to cleanse our begrimed persons, which had been hitherto denied us."

"Judson's coadjutor, Dr. Jonathan David Price, was a very different character,—a tall, gaunt, rawboned, sallow-complexioned Yankee, singularly uncouth in appearance, his light hair bristling towards all points of the compass, and his nose of the kind termed, by those who have classified this feature, 'celestial.' I suppose from its tendency to point upwards. Price had acquired a smattering of the medical science, by attending some hospitals in America, and possessed a decided turn for mechanics, both of these accomplishments affording him amusement in his after prison life. He was a sincerely religious man, and, in his way, was no doubt a very useful missionary, but his eccentricities were at times not a little troublesome to his brethren. His wife, who came out with him from America, having died, he had married a blind native woman, of Siamese extraction, who had a little sight left when she submitted to an operation by the doctor, and he, through his want of

skill having deprived her of that little, married her by way of compensation. I venture to hazard this conjecture, as her plainness of person, irrespective of her blindness, was repulsive, nor was there any other conceivable motive."

"Our worthy but eccentric doctor had crept up the sleeve of the chief of the prison so far as to draw from him the gift of a bamboo and a lump of clay, which he promised to convert into a clock, that should go well enough to keep the prison time. How he expected to succeed with such materials I know not, and began to think he had taken leave of his senses. After much labour and thought bestowed upon it he began to see his folly, and gave it up in despair; but unwilling to part with his playthings, the versatile doctor made use of the clay to model a human head with phrenological compartments, on which he discoursed to an auditory of wondering convicts, endeavouring to in-till scientific knowledge, with about as much success as attended his experiment on the clock.

"One of the spotted men was afflicted with a large troublesome wen, or swelling, on one of his eye-lids. The doctor had often cast a longing eye on this wen; his fingers itched to be at it, but his case of instruments had been taken by the plunderers. At last he summoned the resolution to beg the rascal to submit to have it extracted with the stump of a common penknife. We became alarmed. We were all, to a certain extent, in this man's power, and fearing a result as disastrous as followed the experiment on his wife's eye, without such ample means of making peace in the event of failure, we remonstrated. The undaunted doctor, however, persisted; the opportunity for practice was irresistible.

"Never did I see such a hacking! Such a mopping! I could not have wished my worst enemy in more ruthless hands. After many ejaculations and contortions on the part of the patient, the operator succeeded in whittling out a something which very much resembled in appearance two or three inches of a large dew-worm; when, I suppose, not knowing what more to do with it, or unable to extend his discoveries further, the disgusting string was snipped off. The result was a little better than was anticipated. After some days, when the wound healed, it was found that although the inconvenient swelling had been removed, the muscular power had by some means been destroyed, and the lid fell helplessly over the eye like a curtain, leaving the sight uninjured. The doctor cared little for this, and tried to console his patient by telling him how much better off he was than before. He had an eye always ready in reserve. 'Never mind,' said he, 'the eye will keep all the better. When you want it, all you have to do is to lift the lid, and when you have done with it let it drop again—it will be always at hand, you know.' Such were the prison recreations of Jonathan Price.

"Judson and I hit upon a much better resource; a game at chess. What! a game at chess in the Let-mayoon! Yes, it certainly has a sound of civilised life; but let not the imagination of my reader carry him to two comfortable arm-chairs placed opposite to each other, while between them stands a table spread with curiously-carved pieces of red and white ivory. Our surroundings could not boast that elegant character. We set our wits to work with more success than our friend Jonathan did, whose knife and discarded bamboo very soon produced such a set of pieces as answered our purpose, though they bore but a faint and ludicrous resemblance to their established forms. Still we had no difficulty in assigning their respective powers to these nondescript whittlings, nor in distinguishing them readily enough after a few games. The board would have been a serious difficulty if the earth oil cup had not befriended us, in yielding a good supply of lamp-black, which we smeared into checkers on an old remnant of buffalo hide, discovered in the abandoned corner of the prison. Crosslegged, or stretched at length on the greasy floor, how many hours did we beguile with this absorbing game, which must otherwise have been passed in deep dejection, or in unprofitable speculation on the course of a destiny which we could neither alter nor improve!"

"The prison was crowded—the time was midnight. Judson in a sound sleep—Brother Price the same, being next to each other on the row. But Jonathan Price, though a good companion when he was awake, was a wretchedly bad one when he was asleep. I have already said that he was a gaunt, angular, raw-boned Yankee, who could never compose himself to sleep, until he had brought his knees to touch his nose, a custom of long standing, acquired in times of yore—when freedom sanctioned his occupying as much space as he pleased. Now, it is not to be wondered at, under present circumstances, if during the night Jonathan was often disturbed by evil dreams, and, when such occurred, he had the ugly habit of launching his terrible knees, well weighted with iron, with fearful force at the back of his unoffending neighbour, till he made the fetters of both parties rattle again. Judson bore these concussions with becoming fortitude for some time, until one of these poundings became more severe than human nature could endure. 'Brother Price! you are a public nuisance. I insist on your sleeping as other people do.' Brother Price assured him it was unintentional, but failed to convince him that it was unavoidable. Some threats of retaliation passed, in which poor Judson would have had no chance. To restore harmony, I offered to sleep between them, and when the battering-room assailed my back, I would awaken the sleepy doctor from his nightmare, and challenge him to a pipe of tobacco, which we smoked at all hours of the night in good-humour. Besides, I could get him to fall asleep sometimes on the other side, and so bestow a fair share of his attentions on the sturdy frame of old Mr. Rogers, whose ill-luck brought him to occupy the next place on the line."

We have deliberately made these long extracts, desiring to attract our readers to the book. We refrain, therefore, from telling how these sufferings and wrongs came to an end. The whole book is as interesting, some of it more so, than the quotations we have made. Mr. Gouger's tribute to the Burmese missionaries, accompanied as it is, by strong assertions of the genuineness of the products of their work in conversion, and yet further by some wise words against exaggerating such results, has perhaps disproportion-

ately impressed and detained us: but the subject has naturally a peculiar interest for English Christians, and Mr. Gouger's book is too rich to be represented otherwise than by very partial selection. The narration is plain and unaffected; but its substance is too romantic, and its scenes too striking, for it to be other than very powerful: and our knowledge of the country and people of Burmah is not so abundant, even now, that this book should be slighted as to its information, apart from personal story.

The Pilgrim's Progress. By JOHN BUNYAN. With Memoir and Notes by GEORGE OFFER, Illustrated with 100 Designs by J. D. WATSON. London: Routledge and Co.

It will be remembered that Bunyan lived to see the uncommon popularity of the first part of his great work: and what he himself wrote of its acceptance in many a land, in France and Flanders, in Scotland and New England, is again fulfilled in the presentation of his *Pilgrim* in the beautiful volume before us:—

"Under such advance, Receiving so much loving countenance, As to be trimm'd, new clothed, and deck'd with gems, That it may show its features and its limbs Yet more;—so comely doth my Pilgrim walk, That of him thousands daily sing and talk."

Though we have had several splendid editions of the *Pilgrim's Progress* in late years, there is an individuality and an expressiveness in the illustrations to this volume that will secure for it great admiration, and there is a sumptuousness in its whole style that has never been surpassed. Of the text, memoir, and notes, it is enough to say that Mr. Offer has revised the book; and has contributed an excellent little piece of biography, and such annotations, taken chiefly from Bunyan's other works, as the illustration of the more obscure parts of the allegory require, especially for its intelligent enjoyment by the young. The engravings are the distinguishing feature. Mr. Watson has enjoyed advantages in both the successes and the failures of artists that have preceded him in this task: and we do not intend to detract from his originality when we say, that he seems to have been duly impressed by their work. Many hints for the handling of incidents, and for physiological illustration of the characters of the allegory, he may be well supposed to owe to others: but in such a work, which is a series of word-pictures from beginning to end, and of most wonderful definiteness and brilliancy too, he has found scope for the selection of incidents not previously treated, and for the display of a conceptiveness that is all his own. There has seldom been a considerable book illustrated by one hand, which has attained a rate of excellence so high and so sustained as we find here. Certainly there is failure in many cases to give the spirit of Bunyan's description; and not a few of the subjects selected are without any particular susceptibility of pictorial treatment. When we find a design that tells no tale of its own, it is generally to be resolved into unsuitability for the pencil: and perhaps more discernment might have been shown in this respect. Instances of what we mean may be found in "Christian returning thanks for Victory," "Faithful helping Christian up," "The Man's Dream," Faithful instructing Hopeful, and others of the same unpicturesque character. Occasionally, even with a good subject, Mr. Watson has shown but a half conception of it, or worse, a feebleness in the treatment of it: as, conspicuously, in the "Man in the Iron Cage," in "Christian Climbing the Hill Difficulty," where the figure is altogether without strain or even motion, in "The Pilgrims in sight of the Holy City," which is weak in the extreme, in "Crossing the River of Death," and in "The Man with the Muck-rake." One subject here treated should not have been chosen at all,— "Ignorance Thrust into Hell."

But it is with great pleasure that we turn to the merits and beauties of the greater number of the designs. Mr. Watson's portraiture and delineation of incident give a very literal rendering of the allegory. The idealisation in which other artists have indulged, he, like Mr. Bennett, Bunyan's last illustrator, has eschewed. The people pictured are English people of Bunyan's time, with the characteristic costume and surroundings. We approve the principle; but its application might be made with more poetic feeling than has yet been shown by either of the artists adopting it. Amongst the portraits we must name with praise those of Christian, Obstinate, Formalist, Hypocrisy, Lady Feigning's Daughter, Greatheart, and Mr. Brisk, as all very true to the characters, and very fairly satisfying the full requirements of the text. Amongst incidents, we confess we think the very best are the contrasting pictures of "Mr. Talkative at the Ale-house" and "Mr. Talkative at Home":—they tell their tale—"he is best abroad; near home he is ugly enough." And very good indeed are "Pliable mocked after his apostasy," "Faithful and Wanton," "The Jury agreeing in their Verdict," some of the groups of Christiana's family, and the sweetly-felt little "Flower Offerings." "Vanity Fair," too, is good; but, though the drawing is very crowded, and one finds much that has a meaning, there is a want of the detail—minute, varied and characteristic detail—that is requisite to a true, ex-

pressive representation of that best of Bunyan's scenes.

The engravings have been executed in the most satisfactory manner by the brothers Dalziel; and the volume is magnificently printed and bound. Indeed, so deliciously produced a book is it, that all the parties concerned in giving it to the world deserve hearty commendation and thanks.

FOR THE YOUNG.

Lillieslea: or Lost and Found. By MARY HOWITT. Routledge and Co. This is a very charming story: and it comes from one who has every claim on the affectionate gratitude of the young. To her young relatives "of the third generation" she dedicates her new book! Can it be so! Yes: we were ourselves in 'teens when we first read Mary Howitt:—we hope we may see our grandchildren reading her in their 'teens too. For never have we read any book of Mrs. Howitt's for the young with the intense interest we have felt in this. It thoroughly possessed us; and, though eminently a story for girls, woke up all the sympathies and simple susceptibilities of delight that belong to long ago. Christina is a fair, sweet child,—the air is full of light and fragrance wherever she moves. Yet a true, living child, though so rarely gentle and good. The nabob uncle is admirable, too; the Thurlows all delightful. But the two characters of the book are poor dear old Mr. Ensor, (bless his sad, tender heart), and that Miss Chert. Whether it is desirable to delineate Miss Cherts for the young, with the danger of leading them wilfully to impute Chertism to the powers that be, when they are themselves at fault, will be questioned by some; but there is no mistake about the life-like truth and cleverness of the sketch. And the good old servant Thomasine; and Mrs. Ensor, and Mrs. Coffin, all are most real and personal. The incidents of the tale are very touching; and many and many a profitable suggestion for the young heart lies in the bosom of the beautiful story. Then, above all writers for the young known to us, Mrs. Howitt can write pleasant sketches of scenery, country pictures, domestic pictures, that are so distinct and rememberable as to remain vividly on the imagination. But the great distinction of the book, from even the best the author has produced, is the element of true, earnest, thoughtful, cheerful piety, that pervades and animates it. Most heartily do we recommend it to the girls in every home to which our word reaches.

—*The English Children Abroad.* By the Author of "Mamma's Bible Stories." (Seeley, Jackson and Halliday.) What its title imports, the story of the travels of a family of English Children on the Continent. And a capital book for children it is: telling them of just those things that in actual travel would be sure to have their first attention and excite their curiosity most. The Rhine, Switzerland, Italy, France—these are the scenes; but there is no attempt to cover the whole ground, but only to describe briefly a few places and objects of interest, and those not always the most celebrated, which were actually visited by the family to which the book refers. Neither is there any attempt at adventure, but a simply truthful account of the domestic life of the children whose residence on the continent supplied the materials for the book. It will give children an excellent notion of the continent; and will teach them many common things that are not included in formal instruction. It will also put clearly before them the peculiar advantages and privileges of their own fatherland and their happy homes. It is very nicely and unaffectedly written; and it has several pleasing and truthful illustrations. —*Neptune's Heroes: or the Sea-Kings of England.* By W. H. DAVENPORT ADAMS. (Griffith and Farran.) A book for the elder boys,—which some of their fathers might do well to read too,—and in which even their sisters may find pleasure. It is a series of brief biographies of the heroic adventurers and gallant admirals who have given importance and glory to England's navy. These are written from the best authorities—duly recited by the author,—and are chronologically arranged, so as to give an historical view of our naval progress, and of the great battles of the sea in which our naval heroes have been engaged, from the time of the Armada to the siege of Algiers. It thus brings into one volume what is hardly to be found elsewhere in any moderate compass, and what, to a great extent, lies in a vast heap of volumes, inaccessible and unsuitable to the young, from Hakluyt's Voyages to Dixon's Life of Blake. The book is written with clearness and spirit; and is of the highest interest. It ought to become a great favourite with boys, and take a deeper hold on them than any romance. It is illustrated by Gilbert and Morgan. —*Lost in Ceylon.* By WILLIAM DALTON. (Griffith and Farran.) A favourite writer again offers to the young a book full of adventure and excitement. The story of a boy's and girl's adventures in the woods and wilds of Kandy, is, as might be expected, in the highest degree improbable: but it is very interesting, too. Yet the book is to be praised, not so much for its character and incidents, as for its incorporation of all the best information respecting Ceylon. The cream of Sir Emerson Tennant's materials enriches the story: and no young person can read it without greatly enlarging his or her knowledge, in a very valuable manner, while, at the same time, becoming breathless over the wonderful fortunes of May and Tom. It is well illustrated by Harrison Weir.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Book of South Wales. By Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Hall. Nephalism, the True Temperance. By James Miller, F.R.S.E. Sabbath Evening Readings. By Dr. Cumming. Studies of Christian Character. By Betha Fox. History of the United Netherlands. By J. L. Motley. Two Vols. Commentary on the Sermon on the Mount. By Dr. Tholuck. Memoir of George Wilson, M.D. By his Sister, J. A. Wilson. The Christian Element in Plato. Translated from Dr. Ackermann. Memoirs of Bulstrode Whitelocke. By R. H. Whitelocke. Grace Abounding. A Narrative of Facts. By the Rev. J. Baillie. Commentary on the Epistle of St. John. By Dr. Ebrard. Rays of Sunlight for Dark Days. Noble Traits of Kingly Men. David King of Israel. By the Rev. W. G. Blackie, A.M. A Day in Laodicea. By Rev. A. N. Sommerville. The Playbook of Metals. By J. H. Pepper. Annals of the Rescued. By the Rev. C. E. L. Wightman. What Uncle told us About. By Alfred Crowquill. The Adviser for 1869. True Manhood. By the Rev. W. Landels. The Mother's Thorough Resource Book. Will Adams; the First Englishman in Japan. By W. Dalton. Fairy Footsteps, or Lessons from Legends. The Progress of Nations. A Study in Analytical History. Heaven our Home.

Gleanings.

Madame Clara Novello has departed for Italy, where she intends to take up her residence.

The Cæsarian operation was successfully performed a few days ago in London.

The Crystal Palace directors have recommended a dividend of two per cent. for the past year, leaving a reserve of 11,000*l*.

There is reason to believe that Monday the 24th will be generally kept as a holiday, both in town and country.

The Penny Stamp line of business, it is currently said, will be further developed by a tax of a penny, twopence and threepence on Post-office orders.

The *Leader*, founded by Mr. Thornton Hunt and Mr. G. H. Lewes, has terminated its separate existence, being now incorporated with the *London Review*.

In the Insolvent Debtors' Court, London, on Thursday, in the case of a publican, the insolvent said his business had fallen off in consequence of the volunteer rifle corps movement.

The *Italia* of Milan announces the approaching publication of a work by General de Lamoricière on the present situation of Italy. The book, written in Italian, is to be brought out at Turin.

The letters received by Sir Cresswell Cresswell, or his Secretary, are amusing. A lady wrote the other day, asking to be favoured with "a prospectus of the Divorce Court, with the various rates of charges for the respective descriptions of divorce!"

Messrs. Macmillan and Co. have in preparation a "Life of Blake, the Artist," to be copiously illustrated from his own productions; also, "Lives of the Sheridans," by the Honourable Mrs. Norton, the granddaughter of Richard Brinsley Sheridan.

The *Gazette de France* reports that M. Louis Veuillot is preparing a new work on the Papacy entitled "L'Europe sans le Pape;" also that M. de Corcelle, French ambassador at Rome in 1859, is engaged on a great work on the financial situation and the resources of the Pontifical States.

"The Pilgrim: a Dialogue of the Life and Actions of King Henry the Eighth," by William Thomas, Clerk of the Council of Edward the Sixth, with Notes from the Archives at Paris and Brussels, by Mr. J. A. Froude, is announced by Messrs. J. W. Parker and Co.

Some months since, Sir Bartle Frere sent to this country a magnificent collection of casts from Hindu architecture and antiquities. These are in the custody of the Committee of the Architectural Museum, and, pending the settlement of the points at issue between that body and the Government, are at present invisible to the public.

Mr. J. A. St. John has in the press the first volume of a new "History of England, from the Earliest Period to the Death of William the Conqueror." In this work, which will be completed in five other volumes, the author is stated to have made use of a vast quantity of new materials from the archives of the State Paper Office.

Messrs. Nisbet and Co. are preparing for publication a "Memoir of the Life and Ministry of the Reverend David Sandeman, Missionary to China," by the Reverend A. Bonar; and "The History of Christianity in India, from the commencement of the Christian Era," by the late Reverend J. Hough, formerly Chaplain to the Honourable East India Company at Madras, edited by his Son.

DEATH IN THE TOY-SHOP.—The Editor of the *Chemical News* says that, lately, remarking the extreme brilliancy of the green paint with which some toys were embellished, he bought three or four at the Lowther Arcade and subjected them to analysis, the result of which proved that arsenic, in the form of arsenite of copper, was there present in so large a proportion as to render it a most dangerous risk to place such playthings in the hands of children. As the paint was at once removable on the application of water and a little gentle friction, there would have been no obstacle to the full gratification of the juvenile propensity of applying it to their lips. Having detected this poisonous colouring pigment,

which bears the innocently-sounding name of "Scheele's green," in the paint which covered these toys, it may safely be assumed that its use is general, he earnestly advises all who are responsible for taking proper care of the health of children to banish all painted toys from the nursery.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

HANKINSON.—December 11, at Leek, Staffordshire, the wife of the Rev. Josiah Hankinson, of a son.
ROBINSON.—December 11, at 136, High-street, Nottingham, the wife of Mr. John Joseph Robinson, of a daughter.
BUZACOTT.—December 12, the wife of the Rev. A. Buzacott, B.A., Romford, Essex, of a daughter.
HUCKETT.—December 17, the wife of Mr. H. Hockett, Market Harborough, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

UGLOW—FLOYD.—December 2, at Bethesda Chapel, Truro, by the Rev. S. Jones, Mr. William Uglow, jeweller, &c., to Mrs. S. Floyd, late of the Temperance Hotel, both of Truro.
HUTCHINSON—PARNLEY.—December 4, at the Independent Chapel, Pickering, by the Rev. J. Earnshaw, Mr. Thomas Hutchinson, grocer, to Miss C. Parnley, of that place.
ATHERTON—POTTS.—December 5, at the Methodist New Connexion Chapel, Bolton, by the Rev. T. D. Crothers, Mr. William Atherton, to Miss Sarah Potts, both of that town.
HARDING—POWELL.—December 6, at Brunswick Chapel, Moss-street, Liverpool, by the Rev. G. Boden, Mr. R. Harding, corn merchant, Liverpool, to Eliza Thomas, only daughter of the late B. B. Powell, Esq., of Tattenhall, Cheshire.
CAMPS—PHILLIPS.—December 11, at Eccleston Chapel, Belgrave-road, by the Rev. Samuel Martin, Henry Camps, Esq., of Salterly Grange, Gloucestershire, to Maria, second daughter of the late Williams Phillips, Esq., F.R.S., of Tottenham-green, Middlesex.
EASTON—SUMMERSELL.—December 11, by the Rev. A. M. Henderson, of Claremont Chapel, Pentonville, John Easton, Esq., of Bedford-row, Holborn, to Emma Summerzell, of Alma Cottage, Thornhill-road, Islington.
STEINITZ—M'GREGOR.—December 11, at the Independent Chapel, Ulverston, by the Rev. H. C. Leonard, M.A., assisted by the Rev. F. Evans, the Rev. Julius James Steinitz, Congregational minister, Boxmoor, Hertfordshire, to Charlotte Helen, only surviving child of the Rev. John M'Gregor of Stranraer, N. B.
STANSFIELD—PARKER.—December 12, at the Friends' Meeting-house, Bradford, John Stansfield, of the Friends' Provident Institution, to Margaret, eldest daughter of Wm. Parker, all of Bradford.
GILLET—TREGELLES.—December 13, at the Friends' Meeting-house, Benfieldside, Charles Gillet, of Banbury, Oxon, banker, to Gertrude Mary, eldest daughter of E. O. Tregelles, C.E., of Derwent-hill, Durham.
MORRIS—RIDLEY.—December 13, at Turret Green Chapel, Ipswich, by the father of the bridegroom, the Rev. Thomas Morris, of Whitechurch, Southampton, the Rev. T. M. Morris, to Kate, second daughter of the late Henry Ridley, Esq., of the above place.
SHOEBOTHAM—DITCHETT.—December 13, at the Tabernacle, Bristol, by the Rev. John Glendinning, minister of the place, the Rev. Daniel Kirby Shoebottom, of Dudley, Worcestershire, to Sarah, youngest daughter of Samuel Ditchett, Esq., of Paul-street, Portland-square, in the former city.

DEATHS.

CORKE.—November 5, aged twenty-nine, at Kurrachee, East India, Mr. William Corke, jun., late of Halifax.
WHITLEY.—November 10, aged thirty-four, at Colombo, Ceylon, suddenly, by the falling of the wall in the Church Missionary Compound, the Rev. Henry Whitley, M.A., second son of the Rev. Edward Whitley, M.A., Chaplain to the Worshipful Company of Ironmongers.
FEARON.—December 10, at his residence, Calthorpe-street, Edgbaston, George Fearon, Esq., M.D., senior physician to the Birmingham Homoeopathic Hospital and Dispensary.
CUNLIFFE.—December 10, at the residence of her brother, John Cunliffe, Esq., 1, Upper Hyde-park-street, Ann, elder daughter of the late James Cunliffe, Esq.
BATTLOCK.—December 14, at Shoreham, Mary Ann, the beloved wife of Mr. S. Battcock. She was an earnest Christian, and her loss will be sincerely felt beyond the circle of her own family.
HILL.—December 14, at No. 2, Globe-terrace, Stratford, Essex, Agnes, the beloved wife of the Rev. John Hill, M.A.
SPRINGFIELD.—December 15, at her residence, St. Mary's, Norwich, in the seventy-sixth year of her age, Elizabeth, widow of the late Thomas Osborn Springfield, Esq.

Money Market and Commercial Intelligence.

CITY, Tuesday Evening.

The unexpected news received *via* St. Petersburg, of the conclusion of peace with China, occasioned an advance of $\frac{3}{4}$ per Cent. in Consols on Monday. In the afternoon, however, a relapse took place, and the closing quotations were only $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. above those of Saturday.

To-day the funds were rather firmer, and an improvement of $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. was quoted throughout the day. Business was quiet; but support was derived from purchases by the public of Reduced and New Three per Cents., these stocks being relatively nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. cheaper than Consols, the transfer books of which are shut. The official business report is as follows:—Three per Cent. Consols, for account (Jan 10), 93 $\frac{1}{4}$, ex div.; Three per Cents. Reduced, 92 $\frac{3}{4}$, 93; New Three per Cents., 92 $\frac{3}{4}$, 93, 92 $\frac{1}{2}$; Bank Stock, 233; India Five per Cent. Stock, for account, 101 $\frac{1}{4}$ ex div.; ditto Bonds, 5s., 10s. dis.; Five-and-a-half per Cent. "enfaced" rupee paper, 101 $\frac{1}{4}$, 101.

There was a good demand for money to-day at 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 per cent. for bills of a high class. The applications at the Bank were to a fair extent. The demand at the close of the week will probably be brisk, owing to the intervention of the holiday on Monday and Tuesday.

A fair amount of business is recorded in the Foreign Stock Market, and prices are tolerably steady. Turkish 6 per Cents. are 71 $\frac{1}{2}$ 72; ditto New Loan, 57 $\frac{1}{2}$ 58 $\frac{1}{2}$. Venezuela, 21 $\frac{1}{2}$. Dutch 4 per Cents.,

1600 $\frac{1}{2}$. Mexican, 21 $\frac{1}{2}$ 21 $\frac{1}{2}$. Peruvian, 96; ditto 3 per Cents., 74 $\frac{1}{2}$; and Spanish Certificates, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Joint Stock Bank and Miscellaneous Shares have been in moderate request. Oriental Bank have improved to 47 $\frac{1}{2}$. Crystal Palace Stock to 35 and 36; and Royal Mail Steam realise 47.

The prospectus of the New Turkish Loan was issued on Wednesday. The amount is 16,000,000 $\frac{1}{2}$, of which 5,000,000 $\frac{1}{2}$ is offered in London at a price which, calculating all allowances for interest on instalments and the early operation of the sinking fund, is about equal to 59 $\frac{1}{2}$ 15s. per cent. The loan meets with no encouragement whatever on the Stock Exchange.

A meeting of the creditors of Messrs. Thomas Piper and Son, builders, was held on Thursday. The liabilities were stated at upwards of 50,000 $\frac{1}{2}$, while the assets were only 15,000 $\frac{1}{2}$. A composition of 4s. 6d. in the pound was offered and accepted. The suspension took place on Friday morning of Mr. Henry Bateman, a respectable timber-merchant, who has been brought down solely by the failure of his relatives, Messrs. Piper and Son, and the very unsatisfactory character of their assets. Mr. Bateman, it is said, will probably be able to pay 15s. or 16s. in the pound. Mr. F. H. Schrader, sugar refiner, of St. George's-in-the-East, has suspended payment, and his liabilities are stated to be about 20,000 $\frac{1}{2}$. Messrs. A. Mushlian and Co., merchants, of Manchester and Bradford, have stopped payment. They are in the Levant trade. The bills of Messrs. Charles Villatte and Co., South American merchants, of Birmingham, have also been returned. The liabilities are believed to be rather large, but with regard to the assets no certain information has transpired. Messrs. Dodge and Giandonati, manufacturers of India rubber, &c., of St. Paul's-churchyard, have stopped payment. Their liabilities are believed to be rather limited.

The petition to the Stock Exchange Committee to close the establishment on Monday next was extensively signed to-day, and no doubt is entertained that it will be acceded to.

One of the principal features presented in the reports received during the last week from the manufacturing districts, is the falling off in the demand for exportation to the United States. This is an inevitable consequence of the crisis in that country; and there is ground to fear that its effect will yet be felt, particularly by the iron trade, which at present is not in a position to bear up well under any new adverse influence. In the general condition of the trade of the country there is no alteration of striking importance. Except in a few localities the entire labouring population continues to be well employed. Exporters are at present watching with a good deal of anxiety the progress of events in two of the most important markets with which they carry on business, namely, India and China. In neither of those countries are the conditions of trade so settled as could be desired.

The Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

(From Friday's Gazette.)
An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ending on Wednesday, Dec. 12.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.	
Notes issued ...	£27,119,415
Government Debt	£11,015,100
Other Securities	3,459,900
Gold Bullion	11,768,482
Silver Bullion	875,933
	£27,119,415
BANKING DEPARTMENT.	
Proprietors' Capital	£14,558,000
Reserve	3,177,771
Public Deposits	6,617,485
Other Deposits	12,104,219
Seven Day and other	668,525
Bills	£37,527,826
	£37,527,826

Dec. 13, 1860.

M. MARSHALL, Chief Cashier.

Friday, Oct. 14, 1860.

BANKRUPTS.
STURGIS, O., Upper Belsize-terrace, Belsize-lane, Hampstead, builder, December 27, January 24.
SAUNDERS, H., Brighton, cabinet maker, December 28, January 26.
MACK, R., Cork street, Camberwell, extractor of wool from rags, December 28, January 26.
STANNARD, J., Newport, Isle of Wight, trader, December 21, January 28.
BILLET, V. P., King-street, Cheapside, importer of French clocks, December 28, January 23.
BRIDGER, C., Haslemere Surrey, builder, and Liphook, Hampshire, coal merchant, December 20, January 25.
WHITE, J., Ivy House Farm, Chiddingstone, Kent, miller, December 24, January 28.
HALL, J., Purfleet-wharf, Camden-town, wharfinger, December 24, January 28.
KNIGHTS, H. R., Bermondsey-street, currier, December 21, January 29.
COLEY, J., Tipton, ironmonger, January 18, February 1.
BARTLE, J., Lenton, Nottinghamshire, lace manufacturer, December 27, January 17.
ROE, W., Calverton, Nottinghamshire, grocer, December 27, January 17.
BOWDITCH, G., Taunton, Somersetshire, nurseryman, January 2 and 30.
FOSTER, A., Bradford, Yorkshire, woolstapler, January 7 and 28.
NOMERVILLE, M., Liverpool, joiner, December 31, January 16.
WOOD, J., Birkenhead, licensed victualler, December 28, January 16.
MORROW, J. C., and MORROW, R. T., Liverpool, ship brokers, December 28, January 18.

Tuesday, Dec. 18, 1860.

BANKRUPTS.
INGS, P., Moretown Ringwood, Hants, artificial manure manufacturer, January 2 and 29.
WILLIAMS, E., Wrexham, Denbighshire, builder, December 31, January 18.
SELLART, J., Manchester, chemist, January 3 and 22.

GEORGE, J., Pemberton-row, City, licensed victualler, January 1, February 5.
YOUNG, F., Beaughall-street, woollen warehouseman, January 2 and 29.
WILLIAMS, W. N., Farnham, Surrey, chemist, January 1, February 5.
COURTENS, T. B., Lloyd's Coffee-house, 3, Saint Michael's-alley, City, underwriter, January 1, February 5.
ROBSON, G., Handsworth, Staffordshire, saddler, January 7 and 28.
HARRIS, T., Cardiff, cabinet maker, January 1, February 5.
STARK, C., and STARK, W., Mark, Somerset, corn factors, December 31, January 29.

PRICHARD'S PILLS.—The strongest proof of the valuable qualities of these medicines is the high estimation in which they are held by those who have once tried them, and which is testified by the numerous letters daily received by the proprietor, containing the highest eulogiums of their beneficial and restorative effects. Both pills may be taken together if occasion requires; and for further particulars read carefully the directions which accompany each package.—Address, 65, Charing-cross, London. May be had of all medicine vendors.—[Advertisement.]

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.—GOUT AND RHEUMATISM.—These most painful disorders speedily yield to Holloway's remedies. It is commonly supposed that gout and rheumatism are different diseases; but in fact they are identical—not distinct diseases, but different forms of the same disease, though some extreme cases may seem to disprove this assertion. The cause and seat of both is depraved blood, and he who would contend with either must point his remedies to this vital fluid. Holloway's admirable Ointment affords local relief, diminishing the pain, throbbing, and heat. It must be most effectually rubbed into the complaining parts at least twice a day while taking Holloway's wonderful Pills, which acting on the blood, eradicate both diseases.—[Advertisement.]

CAUTION TO INVALIDS.—Recent investigations have exposed to public observation the deceptions practised by a certain class of apparently respectable, but not over-scrupulous, chemists and druggists upon the Medical Profession and their confiding customers. Amongst these "tricks of trade" are the culpable efforts to injure the reputation, and check the demand, of a popular, safe, and pure remedy, extensively recommended and highly estimated by the Faculty in this and other countries—Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil—by disparaging observations and the intrusive recommendation or surreptitious substitution of a Pale, Yellow, or Coarse Brown Oil, entirely inactive or seriously pernicious in its effects. This exceptionable conduct proceeds from too obvious motives of cupidity to need explanation; but it is right to caution purchasers against a possible imposition, as well as to prevent disappointment, and maintain the reputation of that unquestionably valuable addition to the Materia Medica, Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil, which has gained world-wide celebrity, the highest encomiums of such illustrious savans as Boerhaave, Liebig, Pereira, and Fouquier, the special recognition of most Continental Governments, and the patronage of the élite of the Faculty at home and abroad.—[Advertisement.]

Markets.

CORN EXCHANGE, LONDON, Monday, Dec. 17.

The foreign supplies last week were—Wheat, 2,800 qrs from Cronstadt, 3,091 qrs Danzig, 1,595 qrs Pomerania, 1,890 qrs Hamburg, 250 qrs Harburg, 1,730 qrs Sweden and Denmark, 440 qrs Hamburg, 1,700 qrs France, 1,700 qrs Spain, 1,950 qrs Venice, 1,000 qrs Messina, 2,230 Taganrog, 14,565 qrs New York. Barley, 51 qrs from Danzig, 180 qrs Stettin, 820 qrs Stralsund, 156 qrs Hamburg, 9,102 qrs Sweden and Denmark, 300 qrs Rotterdam, 1,400 qrs Scala Nova. Oats, 1,290 qrs from Pomerania, 560 qrs Hamburg, 31,661 qrs Sweden, 9,111 qrs Denmark, 1,320 qrs Emden. Rye, 1,580 qrs from Cronstadt, 7,055 qrs Danzig, 1,800 qrs Taganrog. Peas, 1,780 qrs Königsberg, 3,191 qrs Danzig, 318 qrs Hamburg, 1,000 qrs Ystad, 2,100 qrs Montreal. Flour, 18,079 barrels from United States, 220 sacks from Hamburg, 100 sacks from France. The quantity of English wheat offering at this morning's market was small, and all dry good qualities sold readily at 1s per qr more than on Monday last. The arrivals of foreign were more moderate last week, and prices have recovered from the depression of this day fortnight, particularly for American descriptions, from 1s to 2s per qr, and there was a steady sale for consumption. Norfolk flour held for 40s per sack, and American barrels ready sale at 6d to 1s per barrel advance on late quotations. Barley of all descriptions went off readily at very full prices. Beans and peas without alteration. The supply of oats were liberal, but we had a good demand for all useful qualities at prices tending upwards. Linseed firm, and cakes quite as dear, with a free sale.

BRITISH.		FOREIGN.	
Wheat	s. s.	Wheat	s. s.
Essex and Kent, Red 42 to 60		Danzig	64 to 74
Ditto White	41 64	Königsberg, Red	58 72
Lin., Norfolk, and		Pomeranian, Red	64 68
Yorkshire Red	—	Rostock	61 68
Scotch	—	Danish and Holstein	60 64
Rye	34 36	East Prussian	58 60
Barley, English	30 32	Petersburg	52 58
Scotch	32 34	Riga and Archangel	—
Malt (pale)	64 68	Polish Odessa	52 56
Beans, mazagan	38 50	Marianopol	56 60
Ticks	—	Taganrog	—
Harrow	—	Egyptian	40 42
Pigeon	—	American (U.S.)	56 66
Peas, White	44 45	Barley, Pomeranian	30 32
Gray	40 42	Königsberg	—
Maple	40 42	Danish	32 34
Boilers	—	East Prussian	28 30
Tares (English new)	50 52	Egyptian	29 32
Foreign	—	Odessa	28 32
Oats (English new)	27 29	Beans—	
Flour, town made, per		Horse	36 42
Sack of 250 lbs	54 57	Pigeon	44 46
Linseed, English	—	Egyptian	36 38
Baltic	56 60	Peas, White	44 46
Black Sea	56 60	Oats—	
Hempseed	30 31	Dutch	20 27
Canaryseed	50 60	Jahde	19 26
Cloverseed, per cwt. of		Danish	19 24
112 lbs. English	—	Danish, Yellow feed	21 25
Gorman	—	Swedish	23 27
French	—	Petersburg	23 26
American	—	Flour, per bar. of 190 lbs.	—
Linseed Cakes, 121 lbs to 131 lbs		New York	26 32
Rape Cakes, 41 lbs to 51 lbs per ton		Spanish, per sack	—
Rapeseed, 30 lbs to 35 lbs per last		Carrawayseed, per cwt.	23 32

BREAD.—The prices of wheaten bread in the metropolis, are from 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 9d; household ditto, 6d to 8d.

CHRISTMAS CATTLE SHOW.

BUTCHERS MEAT, ISLINGTON, Monday, Dec. 17.
The supply of beasts at the market to-day was very large, far beyond the number on any previous question for some years past. The number "bespoken" was 8,818, which was finally reduced to 7,860 head. The quality was certainly very good, with some remarkably fine specimens, superior in certain respects to those shown at the Baker-street Bazaar, because they were more of a "butcher's bullock," or in other words of a more "saleable" character and quality. There were, however, some, but few, coarse bullocks, such as were once considered the acme of perfection, remarkable for largeness of bone, coarseness of meat, and superabundance of unsaleable fat. A want of breed, and coarse ideas of feeding, were here observable.
In consequence of the excessive supply—much more than the

demand required—the beef trade opened very languidly, and continued so for hours. The butchers would not buy, in hopes of obtaining supplies cheaper in the course of the day, while the salesmen were generally firm in supporting their rates, as the weather proved favourable, the wind being northerly, with snow, and very cold. The top price obtained for the best beef was 5s 6d, but more generally 5s 4d.

The sale at Baker-street Bazaar was remarkably brisk, and we believe the only animal unsold there and sent to the Metropolitan-market for sale was a solitary Hereford heifer.

The number of sheep bespoken was 22,170, but the number brought into the market was only 19,560. The weather being good, and the supply small for the occasion, the mutton trade ruled particularly brisk, and high prices were demanded and obtained readily throughout the day. The very best sheep made as much as 5s 8d per stone of 8lbs, and good mutton 4s 6d.

There was about the ordinary trade for veal and pork on a day like the present.

Towards the close of the day the trade became firmer, and the very best mutton made 5s 8d per stone.

Comparative Statement of prices and Supply of Cattle at Market on the Great Day of This and Last Year:—

This Day, Dec. 17, 1860.				
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Beef	4	0	5	4
Mutton	4	0	5	8
Veal	3	4	4	10
Pork	4	0	5	0
Beasts				7,860
Sheep				19,560
Calves				210
Pigs				615

Monday, Dec. 12, 1859.				
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Beef	4	0	5	4
Mutton	4	0	5	4
Veal	4	0	5	0
Pork	3	6	4	6
Beasts				7,560
Sheep				24,420
Calves				160
Pigs				430

The number of beasts here to-day being unusually large, the demand for most kinds was by no means active. However, the prime breeds were in fair request, at somewhat higher currencies. A few very superior Scots, &c., realised 5s 6d per 8lbs, but the general top figure for beef was 5s 4d per 8lbs. The arrivals from Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, and Cambridgeshire amounted to 3,200 Scots, &c.; from Lincolnshire, &c., 2,300 short-horns; from Devonshire, 800 Devons; from other parts of England, 1,000 of various breeds; from Scotland, 700 Scots and crosses; and from Ireland, 350 oxen, &c. The show of sheep was moderate. The best breeds moved off steadily, and in some instances prices had an upward tendency, a few very fine Downes having sold at 6s per 8lbs. Otherwise the mutton trade was in a sluggish state, on former terms. There were a few lambs on show, the general condition of which was inferior. We were fairly supplied with calves. Prime veal was rather dearer, otherwise the trade was rather heavy. The demand for pigs was steady, and in some instances the quotations were a shade higher. The total imports of foreign stock into London last week amounted to 4,525 head. In the corresponding period in 1859 we received 4,364; in 1858, 5,734; in 1857, 1,896; in 1856, 1,895; in 1855, 4,326; and in 1854, 2,828 head.

Per 8lbs. to sink the Offal.									
	s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.
Inf. coarse beasts.	3	4	3	8	Pr. coarse woolled	4	10	5	4
Second quality	3	10	4	4	Prime Southdown	5	6	5	10
Prime large oxen.	4	6	5	0	Lge. coarse calves	4	0	4	6
Prime Scots, &c.	5	2	5	4	Prime small	4	8	5	0
Coarse inf. sheep.	3	8	3	10	Large hogs	4	0	4	6
Second quality	4	0	4	8	Neatam. porkers.	4	8	5	2
					Lambs	0s	0d	0s	0d.

NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL, Monday, Dec. 17.

Since our last report moderate supplies of both town and country-killed meat have come to hand, and in somewhat improved condition. Generally speaking, the trade rules steady, as follows:—

Per 8lbs by the carcass.				
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Inferior beef	2	6	2	8
Middling ditto	2	10	3	0
Prime large do.	3	8	4	0
Do. small do.	4	2	4	6
Large pork	4	0	4	6
Lamb	0s	0d	0s	0d
Small pork	4	8	5	2
Inf. mutton	3	2	3	8
Middling ditto	3	10	4	2
Prime ditto	4	4	4	8
Veal	3	8	4	4

PRODUCE MARKET, MINCEING-LANE, Dec. 18.

TRA.—The market has remained very quiet, without any change of importance in prices.

SUGAR.—The deliveries continue light, but the stock is slightly diminished. Last year, however, the reduction in stock was larger, and the relative deficiency is narrowed to about 400 tons. The market continues very dull, and prices are still declining.

COFFEE.—The clearances are of about an average extent, and the stock, which is 6,800 tons, is less by 1,000 tons than last year. The market is fairly supplied. The sales are progressing without spirit.

RICE.—The market is still inactive, but the deliveries again reach 1,500 tons for the week, and the stock is reduced to 37,400 tons, against 71,400 tons last year.

SALTPETRE attracts very little attention, and the stock has slightly increased.

COVENT GARDEN, Saturday, Dec. 15.—We have to report the arrival of small importations from the Continent, consisting of apples and pears, &c. Pine apples have been in improved request, and prices for them are somewhat higher. Shadocks and oranges still make their appearance, at about late rates. Good coles may be had at from 1s to 1s 6d per lb. Cabbages, carrots, and turnips may be obtained in quantity. Cauliflowers are scarce. Potatoes realise from 6s to 10s per cwt. Asparagus and French beans may now be had in small quantities. Cucumbers are scarcer. Holly and other Christmas evergreens now begin to make their appearance. Cut flowers chiefly consist of Orchids, Gardenias, Chrysanthemums, Violets, Mignonette, Heaths, and Roses.

PROVISIONS, Monday, Dec. 17.—The arrivals last week from Ireland were 1,733 firkins butter, and 1,307 bales bacon; and from foreign ports 14,092 casks butter, and 345 bales of bacon. In the Irish butter market during the last week the business transacted was to a very moderate extent; holders are, however, firm, and the few sales effected were at full rates. Foreign supplies have fallen off, and best Dutch advanced from 11s 4d to 11s 6d. In the bacon market there was rather a better feeling, influenced by the prices paying for pigs in Ireland, and, in some instances, an advance of 1s. per cwt obtained. Prices range from 58s to 65s, landed, according to quality, weight, &c.

POTATOES.—BOROUGH AND SPITALFIELDS, Monday, Dec. 17. Since Monday last, moderate supplies of potatoes have come to hand, coastwise and by land-carriage, and the demand for them is good, at very full prices. Last week's imports from the Continent were only 20 tons. York Regents, 120s to 140s; ditto flukes, 140s to 150s; Scotch Regents, 120s to 140s; Dunbars, 150s to 160s; Kent and Essex, 110s to 140s; French, 95s to 100s; Belgian, 90s to 95s.

HOPS, Monday, Dec. 17.—Our market during the past week has exhibited great steadiness. A fair amount of business has been transacted in yearlings and hops of earlier date, and these descriptions are firm. In the new growth there is scarcely any trade. Mid and East Kent, 6s 14d, and 18s; West of Kent, 4s 8d, and 14s; Sussex, 5s 7d, and 9s; Yearlings, 5s 7d, and 9s 10s. The foreign imports into London last week were 2,471 bales from New York, 221 from Antwerp, 301 from Rotterdam, and 26 from Hamburg.

WOOL, Monday, Dec. 17.—There has been a very moderate supply of English wool since our last report, but the inquiry for all kinds has been by no means active; nevertheless prices generally have been well supported. The transactions for

shipment to the Continent have continued on a limited scale; but we may observe that holders generally are firm in their demands.

SEEDS, Monday, Dec. 17.—During the past week the trade for seeds of all descriptions has been very inactive, value remaining unchanged. Fine qualities of new red cloverseed are held firmly for full prices. White seed is very inactive. In trefoils only choice samples find buyers. Canaryseed is without demand.

OIL, Monday, Dec. 17.—Lined oil is in moderate request, at 29s per cwt on the spot. Rape-oil has given way 1s: brown is offering at 41s, and foreign refined 43s to 44s. Olive moves off slowly, at 60s for Gallipoli, and 55s 5s to 55s 10s for Mogadore. Coconut 53s 10s to 56s, and fine palm is 47s. American turpentine 32s 6d, rough 10s 6d per cwt.

FLAX, HEMP, COIR, &c.—Saturday, Dec. 15.—Most kinds of hemp has changed hands slowly; nevertheless, prices have continued steady. Clean Petersburg has sold at 34s to 34s 10s, roping Manila 22s 10s to 25s, and white 33s to 34s per ton. Coir goods are firm in price, but the demand for them is by no means active. Jute is in good supply and steady demand, at full quotations.

COALS, Monday, Dec. 17.—A general reduction in all coals sold to-day—a general sale. Hetton's 21s, South Hetton 21s, Keiloe 20s, Tees 20s 6d, Reepin Grange 19s 6d, Belmont 18s 6d, Tanfield 19s, Wylam 18s, Gosforth 18s 6d, Hartley 17s 6d, South Hartlepool 19s—Fresh arrivals, 237; left from last day, 12—Total, 249.

TALLOW, Monday, Dec. 17.—Since our last report the transactions in this market have continued steady, and no change has taken place in the quotations. To-day, P.Y.C. on the spot is selling at 60s 3d per cwt. Rough fat is 3s 2d per 8lbs.

	1856.	1857.	1858.	1859.	1860.
Stock	17404	33473	33418	47245	71096
Price of Yellow Candles ..	58s 3d	52s 6d	50s 6d	55s 0d	60s 3d
Delivery Last Week	2336	2848	2566	2404	1118
Ditto from the 1st of June ..	74414	63080	62924	45805	52089
Arrived Last Week	1224	1107	2550	148	1854
Ditto from the 1st of June ..	74898	83147	84800	80969	9904
Price of Town Tallow	60s 3d	55s 9d	53s 6d	58s 0d	61s 0d

Advertisements.

SEWING MACHINES.—Dress and Mantle Makers, Drapers, and Families, are informed that W. F. THOMAS and CO., the original PATENTEES, have constructed a NEW MACHINE especially for their use. The stitching produced (alike on both sides of the material), is the same as that made by the more expensive machines manufactured by W. F. Thomas and Co., and of which so large a number has been sold within the last few years. Price complete, 10s.

The Machines may be seen at 66, Newgate-street, London; 131, Market-street, Manchester; and 54, Union-passage, New street, Birmingham.

THE ELONGATING COT-BEDSTEAD can by an ingenious mechanical contrivance, just patented, be instantly changed from a Child's Cot to a full-length Adult's Bedstead, and vice versa; it also forms a Couch or a Settee. Price from 3l. 5s. Bedding (one set) specially adapted to its different uses, from 22s. 6d.—WILLIAM S. BURTON also invites inspection of his unrivalled stock of Iron and Brass Bedsteads displayed in four large Showrooms, with appropriate Bedding and Bed-Hangings, and all the Furniture requisite for a Bed-room.

WILLIAM S. BURTON'S GENERAL FURNISHING IRONMONGERY CATALOGUE may be had gratis, and free by post. It contains upwards of 500 Illustrations of his illimitable Stock of Sterling Silver and Electro Plate, Nickel Silver and Britannia Metal Goods, Dish Covers, Hot Water Dishes, Stoves, Fenders, Marble Chimney-pieces, Kitchen Ranges, Lamps, Gaseliers, Tea Trays, Urns, and Kettles, Clocks, Table Cutlery, Baths, Toilet Ware, Turnery, Iron and Brass Bedsteads, Bedding, Bedroom Cabinet Furniture, &c., with Lists of Prices and Plans of the Twenty large Showrooms, at 30, Oxford-street, W.; 1, 1A, 2, 3, and 4, Newman-street; 4, 5, and 6, Perry's place; and 1, Newman-mews, London.

DR. DE JONGH'S

(Knight of the Order of Leopold of Belgium)

LIGHT BROWN COD LIVER OIL, Prescribed by the most eminent Medical Men as the safest, speediest, and most effectual remedy for

CONSUMPTION, CHRONIC BRONCHITIS, ASTHMA, COUGHS, RHEUMATISM, GOUT, GENERAL DEBILITY, DISEASES OF THE SKIN, RICKETS, INFANTILE WASTING, AND ALL SCROFULOUS AFFECTIONS.

The invariable purity, palatableness, speedy efficacy, and consequent economy of this unrivalled preparation have obtained for it the general approval and unqualified confidence of the Medical Profession, and notwithstanding the active and in too many instances unscrupulous opposition of interested dealers, an unprecedented amount of public patronage.

The immeasurable therapeutic superiority of Dr. de Jongh's Cod Liver Oil over every other variety is incontestably established by the recorded opinions of the most distinguished Physicians and Surgeons in all parts of the world. In numberless instances, where other kinds of Cod Liver Oil had been long and copiously administered with little or no benefit, Dr. de Jongh's Oil has produced almost immediate relief, arrested disease, and restored health.

SELECT MEDICAL OPINIONS:—

Sir HENRY MARSH, Bart., M.D., T.C.D., Physician in Ordinary to the Queen, in Ireland; President of the College of Physicians in Ireland; Visiting Physician to Stevens' Hospital; Consulting Physician to the City of Dublin, St. Vincent, and Rotunda Hospitals, &c., &c. "I have frequently prescribed Dr. de Jongh's Light Brown Cod Liver Oil. I consider it to be a very pure Oil, not likely to create disgust, and a therapeutic agent of great value."

A. B. GRANVILLE, Esq., M.D., L.R.C.P., F.R.S., Author of "The Spas of Germany," "The Spas of England," "On Sudden Death," &c., &c.

"Dr. Granville has used Dr. de Jongh's Light Brown Cod Liver Oil extensively in his practice, and has found it not only efficacious but uniform in its qualities. He believes it to be preferable in many respects to Oils sold without the guarantee of such an authority as Dr. de Jongh. Dr. Granville has found that this particular kind produces the desired effect in a shorter time than others, and that it does not cause the nausea and indigestion too often consequent on the administration of the Pale Oils. The Oil being, moreover, much more palatable, Dr. Granville's patients have themselves expressed a preference for Dr. de Jongh's Light Brown Cod Liver Oil."

Sold only in IMPERIAL Half-pints, 2s. 6d.; Pints, 4s. 9d., Quarts, 9s.; and bottled with Dr. de Jongh's stamp and signature, WITHOUT WHICH NONE CAN POSSIBLY BE GENUINE, by respectable Chemists.

SOLE CONSIGNEES, ANSAR, HARFORD AND CO., 77, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

CAUTION.—BEWARE OF PROPOSED SUBSTITUTIONS.

GLENFIELD PATENT STARCH, USED in the ROYAL LAUNDRY.

The LADIES are respectfully informed that this STARCH is EXCLUSIVELY USED in the ROYAL LAUNDRY and her Majesty's Laundress says, that although she has tried Wheat, Rice, and other Powder Starches, she has found none of them equal to the GLENFIELD, which is

THE FINEST STARCH SHE EVER USED.

Wotherspoon and Co., Glasgow and London.

TEETH—MR. MAURICE'S MINERAL

TEETH and FLEXIBLE GUMS are universally recognised as being superior to any other Artificial Teeth in Europe for their wonderful imitation, beauty, durability, use, as well as economy. No Springs, nor any painful operation whatever required. From 5s. per Tooth; or 2l. 10s. an Upper or Lower Set.

Mr. MAURICE, Surgeon-Dentist, 316, Regent-street, opposite the Polytechnic.

BY HER MAJESTY'S ROYAL LETTERS PATENT.

NEWLY-INVENTED APPLICATION OF PREPARED INDIA-RUBBER in the construction of Artificial Teeth, Gums, and Palates.

MR. EPHRAIM MOSELY,

SURGEON-DENTIST,

9 LOWER GROSVENOR-STREET, GROSVENOR-SQUARE, SOLE INVENTOR AND PATENTEE.

A new, original, and invaluable invention, consisting in the adaptation, with the most absolute perfection and success, of

CHEMICALLY-PREPARED INDIA-RUBBER,

in lieu of the gold or bone frame. The extraordinary results of this application may be briefly noted in a few of their most prominent features:—

All sharp edges are avoided; no spring wires, or fastenings are required; a greatly-increased freedom of suction is supplied; a natural elasticity hitherto wholly unattainable; and a fit perfected with the most unerring accuracy, are secured, while, from the softness and flexibility of the agents employed, the greatest support is given to the adjoining teeth when loose or rendered tender by the absorption of the gums.

The acids of the mouth exert no agency on the chemically-prepared India-rubber, and, as it is a non-conductor, fluids of any temperature may be retained in the mouth, all unpleasantness of smell and taste being at the same time wholly provided against by the peculiar nature of its preparation.

Teeth filled with gold, and Mr. Ephraim Mosely's Enamel Cement, the only stopping that will not become discoloured, particularly recommended for front teeth.

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